



Daily Report—

Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Inter-Arab: 'Authorized Sources,' Palestinian Envoy on Cairo Summit

JN1405110496 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
14 May 96 pp 1,20

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] AL-DUSTUR has learned from authorized sources that the tripartite Jordanian-Egyptian-Palestinian grouping is not closed to any Arab side that desires to join it.

The sources indicated that the Arab sides that did not attend the summit are not banned from joining the three-way group. Given the current Arab circumstances, a full-fledged summit is not necessarily the norm. The three parties to the "peace camp" seek to expand the circle of this camp, the sources maintained.

The sources added that the aim of the Cairo summit and the upcoming Amman summit is for coordination among parties with common interests, and among parties that are united by an agreement and an understanding on basic issues, such as the issue of peace, security, and stability in the region.

Informed government sources said that the tripartite Cairo summit ushered in a new phase in inter-Arab coordination and joint Arab action. The seriousness of the leaders lay in the fact that they agreed to meet again in early June, and to set up a follow-up committee comprising the foreign ministers of the three states to monitor the progress of the Palestinian-Israeli final-status negotiations.

The sources pointed out that bilateral issues, particularly between Jordan and Palestine, were not raised during the talks between the three leaders, because the basic issue debated concerned parties which the Palestinian Authority perceives as a security threat. The need for a thorough examination of such issues became irrelevant after this issue was frankly and objectively addressed. A full agreement and strong convictions were reached in this regard. Moreover, a firm and clear framework for fraternal Jordanian-Palestinian ties was drawn up.

The sources pointed out that the stand on the issue of setting up a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation has remained unchanged. The three sides agreed that the creation of such a confederation is premature right now. They also agreed that talks on such an issue will not be conducted before the completion of the final-status talks and the achievement of a final solution to the Palestine question.

The sources added that one of the reasons for the success of the summit was the fact that the three sides have common interests. This allows joint coordination to take on a special significance.

With regard to Jordan's stand on Jerusalem's holy shrines, the sources asserted that Jordan did not dissociate the issue of holy shrines from that of East Jerusalem, and viewed them as occupied Palestinian territory. Since the Israeli occupation of Jerusalem in 1967, Israel has not officially recognized Jordan's custodianship over holy shrines. However, Israel changed its position and recognized this custodianship in the Washington Declaration. This custodianship will continue until the Palestinian brothers manage to exercise their sovereignty over Jerusalem. When this happens, Jordan will be the first to recognize this sovereignty and hand over custodianship over Jerusalem's Islamic holy shrines to the Palestinian Authority. His Majesty King Husayn articulated this position frankly at the joint news conference the three leaders held at the end of the Cairo summit.

For his part, 'Umar al-Khatib, representative of the Palestinian National Authority in Amman, described the tripartite Cairo summit as positive and successful. He added that this summit achieved its goals.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, al-Khatib went on to say that the leaders discussed all the final-status issues that will be negotiated between the Palestinians and Israelis, chief among which were the issues of Jerusalem, borders, and settlements. His Majesty King Husayn and President Husni Mubarak asserted their backing and support for the Palestinian people, their legitimate leadership, and their just cause, especially during the final-status negotiations. The two leaders emphasized that there can be no peace in the region unless the Palestinian people obtain their legitimate rights.

Al-Khatib said: The three leaders underlined their eagerness to effect continuous coordination and consultations to follow up and evaluate the outcome of the negotiations on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

The Palestinian ambassador underscored the special and firm Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, indicating that the highest echelons in the Palestinian and Jordanian leaderships emphasized this.

Al-Khatib said that the tripartite summit affirmed that Jerusalem is occupied Palestinian Arab territory and will be the capital of a future Palestinian state. He asserted that the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship is unblemished, and that it cannot be the subject of any dispute or controversy. He described this relationship as strategic.

The Palestinian ambassador said that the upcoming summit that will be held in Amman in the first week of June will underline support for the Palestinian people and their National Authority.

Al-Khatib thanked His Majesty King Husayn for his reiteration of the Jordanian constants which support and back the Palestine question, and also for reiterating that Jordan will not allow any party to use its territory as a springboard for activities against the Palestinian National Authority under President Yasir 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab: Arab Parliamentarians Arrive in Damascus for APU Session

JN1305153396 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] is due to hold its 27th session in Damascus next Wednesday [13 May]. During their two-day meetings, the Arab parliamentarians will discuss their role in reviving and enhancing Arab solidarity. People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah will lead the Assembly's delegation to the meetings.

The Arab parliamentary delegations began arriving in Damascus. Sa'id 'Umar, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Secretariat of the Libyan General People's Congress, and the delegation accompanying him; and al-Tayyib al-Suhbani, chairman of the Political and Foreign Relations Committee in the Tunisian House of Representatives, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Damascus last night to attend the 27th session of the APU Council. The two delegations were received at Damascus International Airport by Shakir Is'ayyid, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee in the People's Assembly; Tawfiq Darwish, member of the Syrian People's Assembly; the director of the Libyan Relations Bureau in Damascus; and the Tunisian charge d'affaires in Damascus.

Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, chairman of the Culture and Information Committee in the Iraqi National Assembly, and the delegation accompanying him also arrived early this morning to participate in the APU Council session. He was received at Damascus International Airport by People's Assembly member Tawfiq Darwish.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 7 May

NC1305182796

[FBIS Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 7 May edition of the Cairo Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Muslims, Christians Praise 'AQIDATI's Role

2. Governor Discusses Enlightening Youths About Extremism
3. Writer Slams U.S. Support for Israel, Hostility to Muslims
4. Editor Hits UN on Lebanon, French Campaign Against Muslims

MUSLIMS, CHRISTIANS PRAISE 'AQIDATI'S ROLE

In a front page 150-word report under the banner headline: "Muslims And Christians in Suhaj: 'AQIDATI is the National Unity Newspaper," Harbi 'Abd-al-Hadi notes that Muslims and Christians in Suhaj say that the newspaper 'AQIDATI is the voice of national unity in Egypt. They emphasized that 'AQIDATI is interested in entrenching national unity by its good reportage on the joint benevolent projects between Muslims and Christians. Faruq Budaywi, head of the Benevolent Faith Society, thanked the newspaper for its constructive role in serving that society. He says that in response to a proposal by Suhaj Bishop Bakhum, the Society decided to set up a peace council whose task it is to bring about reconciliation in disputes between Muslims and Christians before these disputes are referred to the judiciary. The report notes that Bishop Bakhum visited the Islamic Society and gave out presents to orphans. He was repaying a visit by Budaywi to a Christian orphanage.

GOVERNOR DISCUSSES ENLIGHTENING YOUTHS ABOUT EXTREMISM

In a 400-word interview with 'AQIDATI correspondent Nadir 'Amarah, Damietta governor Ahmad Sultan says that it is essential to talk frankly to the youths and enlighten them about their religion so they will not to be deceived by extremists who use religion as a pretense. He says that the youths' questions must be answered, and schools and families must cooperate to fill the intellectual void of the youths. He says that an intellectual void, unemployment, and family disintegration are factors that lead to extremism. He stresses that Islam is a religion of moderation and tolerance and had it been extremist, it would not have spread throughout the world. He calls on the youths to follow the true teachings of Islam and notes the vital role played by mosques in enlightening them about true Islam.

WRITER SLAMS U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL, HOSTILITY TO MUSLIMS

In his 450-word column "Frankly Speaking" under the headline "The United States, Britain, and Arab humiliation," Basyuni al-Halawani, says that the ecstatic

official and popular reception accorded to Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres in the United States and the security agreement signed there reveal the true U.S. stance and "the hatred of the U.S. Government and people for the Arabs, particularly Muslims." He says that the evidence of this is unquestionable. He argues that this hostile U.S. attitude toward the Arab and Muslim causes is not new or strange. He claims that the U.S. Administration protects and "encourages aggression" with all its moral and material resources. This stand, he claims, has become clearer under the Clinton Administration. He says that Peres and his "military gang" committed atrocities in Lebanon, and then the United States hosted Peres and rewarded him for his crimes in Lebanon. The Arabs are still deceived by the U.S. Administration even though its stand is now crystal clear, he claims. Al-Halawani asks what the Arabs are waiting for and if the United States will remain the Arabs' ideal even though it has always let them down. He notes that British security men searched Lebanese Prime Minister al-Hariri before his meeting with Prime Minister John Major, saying this typifies the current Arab and Muslim humiliation.

EDITOR HITS UN ON LEBANON, FRENCH CAMPAIGN AGAINST MUSLIMS

In a 500-word back-page article entitled "A Call to Reason," Chief Editor al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf, notes that a UN report has confirmed that the Israeli forces deliberately committed the Qana massacre. However, the UN Security Council, which meets periodically to review and stiffen sanctions against Iran, Libya, and Sudan, failed to pass a resolution simply condemning the Israeli crimes. Noting the campaign led by Brigitte Bardot against Muslims in France for the slaughter of sheep to celebrate the Corban Bairam, he says none of those who are assailing Muslims now have raised their voices against the Serb and Israeli slaughter of Muslims in Bosnia, Palestine, and Lebanon. Discussing the Israeli-Turkish Air Forces' cooperation, he alleges that this cooperation covers not only the two countries but the entire Middle East and enables the Israeli air force to reach the central Asian republics and Iran's northern border.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Reportedly 'Suspicious' of Jordan's 'Ambitions'

JN1305125496 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic
13 May 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MAJD learned that Egypt is still working on approximating the viewpoints of Jordan and Palestinian Authority [PA], and dispelling the

Palestinian leadership's increasing doubts concerning Jordanian ambitions to return to the West Bank.

The tripartite Husayn-Mubarak-'Arafat summit held in Cairo yesterday — during which no one knows for sure exactly what was discussed — is yet another step within the framework of the semi-permanent Egyptian mediation efforts to clear the political atmosphere between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides following noticeable tension in their relations over the past two months, which may further exacerbate following the Israeli Knesset elections late this month.

Sources close to Yasir 'Arafat told AL-MAJD that 'Arafat has become extremely suspicious of Jordanian intentions vis-a-vis the West Bank. They said that 'Arafat received documents from some Israeli opposition quarters (possibly Meretz) that Jordan is working persistently in coordination with the United States and Israel to regain its influence in the West Bank, prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state, and keep 'Arafat and his National Authority confined to the Gaza Strip alone.

The sources added that 'Arafat informed King Fahd and President Mubarak of these documents. From the time he saw these documents, he rejected any rapprochement or serious coordination with Jordan and came out with a clear-cut strategy he will use during the final-status negotiations with Israel. This strategy underlines the need to maintain distant relations and disengagement with both Israel and Jordan.

The sources pointed out that the structure of the recently formed PA cabinet reveals a large part of 'Arafat's strategy of keeping his distance from Jordan because this cabinet is the largest representation of political forces and geographical areas in the West Bank. This is aimed at pulling the rug from under any possible Jordanian influence both at present and in the future.

The sources said that Jordan's decision to grant Jordanian citizenship to Beersheba citizens enraged and upset 'Arafat. He instructed his men to launch a hostile campaign against all those who sympathize with Jordan; not only in the self-rule areas, but also in Galilee and the Negev triangle, where 'Arafat and his men are working to eliminate any Jordanian influence that remains among the Palestinian circles in the Israeli entity.

The sources also revealed that 'Arafat recently contacted the Iraqi president through the representatives of the Arab Liberation Front cautioning him against Jordanian ambitions in Palestine and Iraq. 'Arafat also stressed that the oil-for-food deal must succeed because it will help Iraq break away from its isolation and resume its natural role.

Palestinian Affairs: PNC Speaker Reacts to King Husayn's Remarks on Jerusalem*TA1305155496 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
13 May 96 pp 1, 22*

["Exclusive" to AL-QUDS]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, INTERMEDIA — Salim al-Za'nun, speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has said that according to Security Council Resolution 242, the letter of invitation to the Madrid peace conference, and the Oslo Accord, Jerusalem is part of the West Bank.

Al-Za'nun was commenting on the Jordanian monarch's remarks in which he said that the holy places should not belong to one country.

In exclusive statements to AL-QUDS, al-Za'nun added that the Palestinians have the right to Jerusalem and that it is one of the issues to be discussed in the final solution talks between the Palestinians and the Israelis which began on 4 May [date as published].

Al-Za'nun called on all Arab and Islamic states to support the Palestinians in regaining Jerusalem, which is considered part of the Palestinian state in accordance with the situation that prevailed before the June 1967 war.

The PNC speaker expressed the belief that no Palestinian-Jordanian disagreement exists over the issue of Jerusalem. He said that Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian state, is located in the heart of the Palestinian territories, and is the nerve center of all Palestinian towns and villages.

With regard to the holy sites, al-Za'nun said: We support the best formula that can be reached in the final solution talks between the Palestinian and Israeli sides that would guarantee the freedom to reach those sites for all the three religions' followers.

He said that Jordanian-Palestinian relations are in good shape, and that this was indicated by the tripartite summit in Cairo. He described the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship as special and historical.

Al-Za'nun added that the confederation option is valid and that the Palestinian and Jordanian people have to express their views on it.

Palestinian Affairs: Israel To Build New Settlement in Jerusalem Neighborhood*JN1405070496 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
0500 GMT 14 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli occupation authorities stepped up their settlement activities in occupied

Jerusalem. The Israeli Supreme Court endorsed the demolition of four houses in 'Anata.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-AYYAM, Khalil al-Tafakji, director of the Map Department at the Arab Studies Society, said that Israel plans to build a new settlement in the al-Shaykh Jarrah area.

In a related development, Khadr Shuqayrat, director of the Land and Water Foundation for Legal Studies and Services, said that the Israeli Supreme Court committed a serious precedent when it endorsed the demolition of four houses in the village of 'Anata near Jerusalem without reviewing several appeals submitted to it in this regard.

Bethlehem residents will stage a massive march at 1600 today. Marchers, who will assemble at the courtyard of the Church of Nativity, will march toward the site of Rachel's tomb as part of the mass struggle against Israeli encroachments on the aforementioned site and the confiscation of extensive areas of the city's land. Representatives of nationalist forces, Legislative Council members, and hundreds of citizens will take part in the march, which is sponsored by the National Follow-Up Committee and the Committee in Defense of Bethlehem Lands.

An official of the Committee in Defense of Bethlehem Lands said that a strike will be declared in the city when the march starts as an additional protest move.

Palestinian Affairs: DFLP Reportedly Ready To Participate in Final Talks*TA1305183896 Gaza AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH
in Arabic 12 May 96 p 1*

[FBIS Translated Text] Hebron, QUDS PRESS — The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has expressed its readiness to participate in the permanent solution talks provided the talks are conducted on the basis of resolutions of international legitimacy and on the condition that the talks' reference point will be the PLO in its comprehensive coalition makeup. This step would be taken after harmony is restored among the PLO-affiliated parties on the basis of a national program.

Attorney Usamah 'Awdah, the official DFLP spokesman, said that the aim of this decision, which is being announced for the first time, is to protect the Palestinian people from the danger of the cancellation of their legitimate rights as well as the danger of the PLO's elimination and fragmentation.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Adviser Criticizes Senator Helms Remarks on Charter

TA1305184596 *Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic*
11 May 96 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza — Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, has criticized U.S. Senator Jesse Helms' statements on the Palestinian National Charter. He said: Helms' remarks are totally unfounded because the Palestine National Council's [PNC] decision to amend the charter was clear and unambiguous.

Abu-Rudaynah added: It is common knowledge that Helms' repeated positions, which are hostile to the Palestinian people, do not serve the peace process. It would have been more appropriate for him to study the official text in English before making his statements.

Abu-Rudaynah pointed out that the U.S. Government and President Clinton expressed satisfaction with the PNC's decisions. He noted that Helms repeats the statements of some Israeli radical elements.

Palestinian Affairs: Abu-Marzuq's Brother Warns of Repercussions of Extradition

TA1305141996 *Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic*
13 May 96 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Brigadier General Mahmud Abu-Marzuq, head of civil defense in the Palestinian Authority [PA], strongly condemned the U.S. Government's decision to extradite his brother, Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] Political Bureau, to the Israeli authorities. He said that this decision exposes the real face of the U.S. Government and its claims of democracy.

Brig. Gen. Abu-Marzuq, who is a member of the Palestine National Council, said that he was shocked upon hearing the decision, because the U.S. Government had promised the PA on different occasions that it would not undertake such a step.

He added that the decision is aimed at destroying the Middle East peace process and exposes the real face of the U.S. Government with its claims of democracy and the protection of human rights.

He warned of the grave repercussions and effects that might result from the implementation of this decision. He said that the decision could have a negative impact on every U.S. official in the entire Middle East region and will increase tension in it, something that does not serve the negotiating process.

Brig. Gen. Abu-Marzuq added that America is aware of the number of protest telegrams that have been sent to

U.S. President Bill Clinton, his secretary of state, and the Attorney General's Office.

The Palestinian official stressed that from the first moment of his brother's detention, President Yasir 'Arafat had closely and personally followed up the issue and had obtained promises from the U.S. State Department, in more than one meeting, that his brother would not be extradited to Israel.

Brig. Gen. Abu-Marzuq said that he sent a letter to President 'Arafat in which he called for his intervention to resolve this issue since he is the president of all the Palestinian people everywhere. He added that President 'Arafat tasked Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, with pursuing the matter.

Palestinian Affairs: APF—Court Ruling on Abu-Marzuq 'Hostile' to Palestinians

JN1305145096 *(Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic* 1330 GMT 13 May 96

[Statement issued by the APF; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Administration on a daily basis continues to prove its flagrant hostility to the Palestinian people and to the Arab and Islamic nations to serve the Zionist occupiers.

The latest form of U.S. hostility was represented by the ruling issued by the racist U.S. Judge Kevin Duffy to extradite to the Zionist enemy Dr. Engineer Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the Political Bureau of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas. Abu-Marzuq is being detained in U.S. jails.

The Alliance of Palestinian Forces [APF] seriously views this unjust ruling as hostile to the rights of one of the leaders of the APF and the Palestinian people. It also views it as an unjustified and illegal ruling against a political struggler who was expelled by the Zionist occupiers from his homeland and kinsfolk at a time when the United States boasts freedom, justice, and democracy.

Moreover, the APF considers this disgraceful ruling as an award to the terrorist Peres and to his party for the crimes and massacres they perpetrated against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. It also considers it as a strictly political decision designed to serve Peres' electoral campaign. This decision has nothing to do with civil jurisdiction and laws.

The APF views this unjust U.S. decision as a new flagrant aggression against the Palestinian people and their factions who are struggling to regain their usurped rights.

The APF holds the U.S. Administration fully responsible for its criminal decision and for any repercussions that may result from it. This decision places the U.S. Administration in direct confrontation with the Palestinian people and their militant forces and also with the Arab and Islamic nations.

While appealing to all Arab, Islamic, and friendly forces, organizations, figures, and masses to denounce this inhumane U.S. decision and to adopt all measures to stop it, the APF urges the U.S. Administration to annul this disgraceful decision and immediately release Dr. Engineer Abu-Marzuq.

[Signed] The APF.

Palestinian Affairs: Sources— Hamas Allows Kidnapping of U.S., Israeli Citizens

JN1305123396 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic
13 May 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MAJD learned that several Arab, Israeli, U.S., and European security organs, declared a state of utmost alert after receiving confirmed information that Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement recently bowed to the demands of its hardline secret and military organs inside and outside the occupied territories to allow them to kidnap U.S. and Israeli citizens to exchange them with Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of Hamas Political Bureau, who is detained in a New York prison. A ruling was made by a U.S. court allowing Abu-Marzuq's extradition to Israel.

Palestinian security sources acquainted with the developments within Hamas, said the moderate leaders in Hamas, who are traditionally known to be opposed to attacking any targets other than Israeli ones, bowed to hardliners in the movement after the racist Judge Kevin Duffy's ruling on extraditing Abu-Marzuq.

These Palestinian sources told AL-MAJD that a strong dispute took place recently among Hamas leaders regarding the taking of U.S. hostages in particular. However, the hardliners were able to recruit the support of the majority in the leadership which approved this subject, while the moderate minority maintained its previous viewpoint on refraining from attacks on U.S. citizens and to restrict killing and kidnapping only to Israelis and Jews.

The Palestinian security sources in the Palestinian Authority said Hamas hardliners won the round against the moderates when they convinced the majority in the leadership that there are no substantial or formal differences between the policies of the U.S. and Israeli allies.

While Hamas hardliners expect the U.S. Administration to extradite Abu-Marzuq before the Israeli Knesset elections in order to strengthen Shim'on Peres' popularity and his election position, the moderates do not expect the U.S. Administration to do so, but will be satisfied with announcing the extradition decision without implementing it in an attempt to forge a political deal with Hamas in the future. Therefore, the moderates in Hamas sent messages to King Fahd, President Hafiz al-Asad, President Husni Mubarak, [Arab League Secretary General] 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid, Butrus-Ghali, and President Jacques Chirac and others calling on them to quickly intervene with the U.S. Administration to free Abu-Marzuq and to stop his extradition to Israel.

The Palestinian security sources cast doubt on the recent statements made by Muhammad Dahlan, commander of Preventive Security in Gaza, about striking at the Hamas military organ and said his statements lack credibility. The sources said this secret military organ is still capable of efficiently carrying out its combat duties.

These sources said the clearest evidence that the military organ is intact and efficient was its success in taking two of its martyrdom-seeking elements into Israel. Israel—leadership and people—is holding its breath awaiting daring martyrdom operations at any time against sensitive Israeli targets on the eve of the Knesset elections before the end of this month.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Moderate' Hamas Political Wing Decides To Join PA

TA1305141296 Tel Aviv DAVAR RISHON in Hebrew
13 May 96 p 1

[Report by Yosi Torpstein]

[FBIS Translated Text] The leadership of the Islamic National Salvation Party, al-Khalas, last night decided to join the new Palestinian government, or the executive council of the Palestinian Authority [PA]. Al-Khalas was set up by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists, who also constitute a majority of its members. The party is considered Hamas' moderate political wing.

Al-Khalas spokesman Fikri 'Abd-al-Latif said yesterday that the party leaders will want to meet with Yasir 'Arafat soon in order to suggest that he co-opt its members into his government.

'Arafat has already made public a list of his ministers and advisers, but has still not finalized the division of portfolios. 'Arafat also said that he has not completed his contacts and that the appointment of three more ministers can be expected.

Al-Latif said that al-Khalas' participation in the Palestinian government depended on not being forced into

recognizing the Oslo accords. He also made it clear that his party would be prepared to accept only portfolios providing services to the civilian population (such as social welfare and education) and will refuse to accept "political" portfolios.

The family of Musa Abu-Marzuq, the Hamas leader a U.S. court decided to extradite to Israel, a few days ago received a video recording in which he talks about continuing the war against Israel. The recording is based on an interview held about a week ago in a U.S. jail. Palestinian sources who watched the video quoted Abu-Marzuq as saying that Hamas is the only organization with the word "resistance" in its name, while the other Palestinian organizations use the word "liberation."

Therefore, he said: "Hamas will continue to fight until it kills the last Jew in the country." He explained that Hamas does not kill civilians, but was forced to kill Israeli civilians following the massacres carried out by Israelis against Palestinians.

Abu-Marzuq denied the charges made against him in the United States. He explained that each Hamas member operates independently and that the Hamas structure is not hierarchical, as many think, but compartmentalized and decentralized. He said the bombings carried out by 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam were planned by that movement without the participation of the political wing. Abu-Marzuq called on the PA and 'Arafat to avoid harming Hamas.

Hamas yesterday disseminated another leaflet denouncing Abu-Marzuq's planned extradition to Israel. It warned that the extradition was meant only to help Shim'on Peres in his campaign. The leaflet warned that "Clinton is gambling on the future of his country."

'Arafat made Dr. Nabil Sha'th responsible for dealing with Abu-Marzuq's extradition. Mahmud, Musa Abu-Marzuq's brother, who is head of civil defense in the Palestinian police, said yesterday that his extradition to Israel could destroy the Middle East peace process.

Palestinian Affairs: Hamas 'Will Not Boycott' New Cabinet, Municipal Elections

MM1305142796 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
12 May 96 p 5

[Report by Fatinah al-Dajani: "Al-Zahhar Tells AL-HAYAH: Hamas Will Not Boycott Municipal Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement "Hamas," yesterday criticized the makeup of the new Palestinian cabinet, saying that it does not repre-

sent all Palestinian factions. However, he pointed out that Hamas will not boycott the cabinet, in the sense that it will participate in the Palestinian municipal elections and in "any constructive national project."

He denied to AL-HAYAH over the telephone that there are consultations between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas to include some Hamas members in the cabinet. He said: "I have not heard anything since my release from prison about any contacts between Hamas and the Authority in this connection. Nor have I heard anything about it in Hamas."

Criticizing the makeup of the new cabinet, he said that it does not represent all the Palestinian factions. He added: "Hamas is not represented (in the government); 'Imad al-Faluji does not represent it. Our position on him is clear. There is one communist in the new cabinet, but it does not mean that he represents the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], Hamas, or the Jihad." He went on to say: "Some ministers were proved failures yet they have been reappointed."

However, al-Zahhar said that his movement will not boycott the new government, pointing out that Hamas will participate in the municipal elections and in any national project aimed at building social, educational, or economic institutions. "It is not a change in our position on the Oslo agreements. We consider ourselves a constructive opposition and we will participate in any project designed to serve the homeland, whether it is launched by the Authority or by the opposition. And if the Authority adopts a position on issues such as the settlements, Palestinian prisoners in Israel, or the occupation, we will support it. This does not mean a change in the movement's convictions vis-a-vis the Oslo [accord]."

He added that in the face of the political line of the Palestinian government, which is following the line of the Oslo agreements, "the movement will work to intensify democratic and jamahiri [of masses] action to enlighten people about the negative aspects" of the peace process. He said that "it is necessary to spread awareness lest political and economic issues detrimental to the masses' interests be ratified."

Palestinian Affairs: 20 Norwegian Observers To Arrive in Hebron 14 May

JN1405082396 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
0500 GMT 14 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Twenty Norwegian observers, along with Norwegian Foreign Minister Bjoern Godal, will arrive in Hebron today as a prelude to the evacuation of the city by Israeli occupation troops. The number

of Norwegian observers will reach 50 by the weekend. The Norwegian minister is scheduled to hold a news conference at the Hebron Municipality.

Palestinian Affairs: AL-QUDS Terms Tripartite Summit 'Successful and Beneficial'

TA1305172496 *Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic*
13 May 96 p 13

[Editorial: "A Successful Summit"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The results of the tripartite summit held yesterday in Cairo between President Yasir 'Arafat, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, and Jordan's King Husayn affirm that this summit was successful and beneficial, especially since it reaffirmed support for the Palestinian people, their National Authority, and the just Palestinian demands in the permanent solution talks, particularly regarding Jerusalem. Moreover, the summit reaffirmed the foundations and principles that must be provided for the achievement of a comprehensive peace.

Undoubtedly, the fact that the final statement dealt in detail with the Jerusalem issue is immensely significant, especially since the statement reaffirmed Arab, Islamic, and Christian rights in Jerusalem. Any talk about peace will remain meaningless without respect for those rights in view of what Jerusalem represents in political, religious, and cultural terms in the conscience and emotions of Arab and Islamic nations, and in view of the focal point that Jerusalem constitutes in the final solution talks between the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

Naturally, such an affirmation and reiteration of Arab and Islamic rights is very important and necessary after the official opening of the permanent solution talks and at a time when Israel still insists on occupying Arab Jerusalem and is continuing settlement activity in it, while disregarding international legitimacy and Arab and Islamic rights. On the other hand, Israel keeps

reiterating day and night its aspiration to normalize relations with the Arab and Islamic nations. This is a contradiction that cannot be tolerated either by the peace process or by the conscience of any Arab and Muslim.

Apart from the clear message on Jerusalem, Palestinian rights, and the components of a comprehensive peace which this summit sent, first of all to Israel, and second of all to the peace process' cosponsors, the summit reaffirmed the Arab side's commitment to the peace option as a strategic option despite all the obstacles and impediments placed by Israel. The three leaders called for the removal of those obstacles.

Naturally, the final statement, which reflected a convergence of political views on the main issues in the negotiations, once again affirms that Arab coordination still exists and that the unity of the Arab stance constitutes an important and necessary lever in confronting the crucial issues on the agenda.

Also more importantly, this summit asserted that betting on undermining the distinct Palestinian-Jordanian relations remains a losing proposition, especially since Jordan has clearly said that it welcomes Arab Jerusalem's restoration to Palestinian sovereignty and expressed its support for the Palestinian side's just demands in the permanent solution talks. Consequently, any talk about violating Palestinian rights and disrespect for the Palestinian will, which is based on international legitimacy, will remain outdated talk about mirages and illusions.

In conclusion, at a time when the tripartite summit clearly dotted the i's toward serving the Palestinian and Arab negotiators, we hope that this move will be a prelude to a wider Arab stance, because such a stance will definitely constitute support for the Palestinian cause and the supreme Arab interests. It will also foil forever any bet to curtail the inalienable and legitimate Palestinian and Arab rights.

Algeria

Algeria: Political Parties Respond to Zeroual's Memorandum

LD1305191196 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Initial reactions to the president's memorandum of proposals addressed to partners of the political dialogue include Habibi Djamel Eddine, leader of the Popular Unity Party [PUP] and member of the Transitional National Council. He said that the memorandum with its proposals could constitute a platform for national concord which would pull the country out — once and for all — of the multifaceted crisis.

For his part, Redha Malek, the leader of the National Republican Alliance, said that the overall course of the memorandum was correct.

The National Party for Solidarity and Development also responded to the president's memorandum. Talib Cherif Mohamed, the leader of the party, described the general line of the memorandum as positive and urged the political class to overcome narrow partisan views. Regarding the national conference, Mohamed pointed out that it would be a decisive turning point in reorganizing the Algerian political arena and would reveal completely the intentions of the positions of all the participants.

Soufian Djilali, secretary general of the Algerian Renewal Party today expressed satisfaction over the general content of the Presidency's memorandum regarding the constitutional reforms and the mechanism of organizing political life in the country. He pointed out that the memorandum included important points.

Algeria: FIS' Houari Rejects 'National Conference'
MM1305151296 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
11 May 96 p 6

[Interview with FIS Executive Committee member Djarfar Houari by Kamil al-Tawil in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Tawil] The Algerian Government is currently acting as though the Islamic [Salvation] Front [FIS] did not exist. Would you care to comment?

[Houari] What has become obvious to everyone is that the military regime in Algeria is adept at practicing the policy of exclusion and marginalization. Since independence and to this day, it has underestimated the people, believing them to be impotent. This is the nature of despotic military regimes. When the Algerian people were given the chance to choose their representatives, they elected the advocates of the Islamic

plan. The regime quickly rejected the (legislative) elections' result, which was not in its favor, and punished the people, believing them to be immature. The tanks crushed the ballot boxes and the election was canceled. It is not surprising that it [the regime] should now ignore the largest party representing the Algerian people. It has been busy fighting and trying to eradicate the FIS since its inception, because it exposed it and unmasked it in front of the people. Otherwise, why should the regime be afraid of Shaykh Ali Belhadj and make him disappear, preventing even his relatives visiting him or finding out his whereabouts? To ignore the existence of the FIS is an act of obstinacy and intransigence.

[Al-Tawil] The FIS has repeatedly said that it is trying to resolve the Algerian crisis through dialogue, but the government has ignored its position. How long will the FIS persist in this policy, seen by some FIS circles as a "policy of surrender"?

[Houari] Because it is aware of its responsibility and it tries to prevent bloodshed and the loss of innocent lives in keeping with the legitimate interests of Islam and Muslims, the FIS has always been keen on a peaceful, just, and comprehensive solution. This has been its position since its foundation. In the (June) 1991 incidents, it greatly helped calm the situation down. After the coup (early 1992), it repeatedly urged the military regime to provide a peaceful and just solution, and, of course, did not renounce legitimate and serious opposition. The FIS' policy is based on demands and struggle. Shaykhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj did the same thing in prison. The FIS has acquitted itself well before God and the people.

I believe that we have won a political battle against the regime and have proved it to the Algerian people and international public opinion.... We now believe that we are going through a new phase of the Algerian people's ordeal, in which dialogue with the generals is pointless. We must try, with the help of the Algerian people and all the parties which want the country's good and stability, to remove this regime..., by all legitimate means.

Those who are talking about an FIS policy of surrender are making false and baseless accusations. What can we do if some people who are full of complexes believe that even serious dialogue is a surrender, without even looking at its nature and mechanism? As everyone knows, the FIS is completely free from the policy of sycophancy, bootlicking, and adulation and also from the policy of one-upmanship. Anyone who is tired of trickery should consult the books of legitimate policy to find out what the nation's scholars have written in this context.

[Al-Tawil] It has been said that the FIS called for a peaceful solution only after it became clear that a military solution was no longer possible. What is your view on this assessment?

[Houari] The FIS has opted for a peaceful and just solution in order to save the country and restore stability and social peace. This should be achieved with the help of the active parties enjoying real popular representation, and by providing all the necessary conditions and real guarantees for its success, first calming the situation down and clearing the political atmosphere. This policy has thwarted the regime's plans to alienate the people from the FIS and its Islamic plan. It will not be able to say that it has defeated us from the security point of view, because the issue is not limited to just the military regime and the FIS. Everyone is now aware that the struggle in Algeria is between two main forces: the Islamic plan supported by the nation, and the military establishment which draws its strength from its weapons and the support of some Western states. Incidentally, I would like to ask the regime's generals if they have any influence outside the major cities. General Zeroual's recent appeals for compassion show that the security situation is deteriorating and getting out of the regime's hands.

[Al-Tawil] Would you care to comment on the remarks that the positions of the FIS leadership abroad do not have the support of the "mujahidin's" military leadership?

[Houari] This is absolute nonsense, a lie, and a fabrication. The FIS is represented by the jailed shaykhs (Abassi Madani, Ali Belhadj, Abdelkader Hachani), those who were freed, the Islamic Salvation Army, and the Executive Committee Abroad, and they are all committed to the familiar FIS line. The FIS leadership abroad has not given up on the mujahidin, and neither have the mujahidin relinquished the FIS' political line. It is a known fact that it is the mujahidin's insistence on presenting a similarity in positions which has made them issue statements in this context.

Those who are saying this — and they are a minority that can be counted on the fingers of one hand — have been in exile for a while. They are unaware of much of the FIS' affairs, they do not know the terrain. Their statements cause the FIS more harm than good, and serve the military regime's interests.

[Al-Tawil] What is the FIS' position on the national conference and the referendum on amending the Constitution?

[Houari] We believe that the national conference is a new conspiracy by the regime to impose the policy of

fire and the sword, and remove peace from everyday life. It is the graveyard of pluralism and political freedoms.

The regime has clearly shown its intention to revert to the single-party era. It will come to this conference with 80 percent of its own followers who eat at all tables, in order to broaden and dilute the conference and tame the parties which will attend. Hence, we hope that these serious parties will be aware of this trap and that they will assume full responsibility and boycott this conspiracy before it is too late, so that the military regime does not gain new credibility which would allow it to proceed with its plans.

With regard to amending the Constitution, we ask: Why are the people being polled now on amending the Constitution when the same people were treated in the past as though they were incompetent? We also know that the amendment proposal is a foregone conclusion and will be imposed regardless of whether the people vote or not. We in the FIS will not recognize this change and will consider it illegal.

[Al-Tawil] Would you care to comment on the remarks that some FIS leaders who previously (prior to pluralism) were working with other Islamic organizations are now preparing to rejoin the ranks of the groups that they left (such as HAMAS [Islamic Society Movement] and al-Nahdah).

[Houari] The FIS is an extension of the Islamic movement in Algeria which, before pluralism, was operating as independent groups or figures. I believe that these biased people mean some of the brothers with Rabah Kebir.

These remarks stem either from uninformed logic or malicious jealousy. The brothers mentioned were working for the Islamic call and founded, with Shaykh Abdallah Djaballah, a group named after him. In 1986 they separated completely from him and continued to work independently for the call until pluralism came. They were among the FIS' first founders on a regional and national scale. I believe the Batna congress settled the issue and ended any speculation. We also believe the Algerian people know who has remained loyal to the FIS' principles and who has joined and then run away for the sake of personal interests and appearances. This kind of talk requires concrete evidence rather than speculation. Perhaps some of the FIS' brother officials cause concern for those advocating one-upmanship, who just wish that they would leave.

Algeria: FIS European Supporters Issue Newsletter
MS1305144096 Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT
in English 7 May 96

[Newsletter "publicizing the Islamic Struggle in Algeria," published by Islamic Salvation Front "supporters in Europe" — quotation marks as received; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Editorial: Political paternalism or the difference between Democracy and "Militarocracy"?

When a regime has been "glued" on the power "couch" for so long and when forces and voices of change become stronger and louder, a game of "cat and mouse" usually starts with the diametrically opposed and mutually exclusive objectives, that of, either "putting more glue to the couch" or "letting the "status-quo" go... really go". Some of these "glued" regimes are crafty in following the wind of History... by speech only.

Nowadays, people everywhere are asking for their political rights of having a say on how their state of affairs should be run and how their futures should be shaped. So the "glued regimes" have learned the song "Democracy" and are singing it so loudly that even countries where such system was originated from and which have centuries of real practice of it, may be feeling less "democratic" than those regimes.

The "glued regimes" can sing... and sing... and sing "we are the true democrats of the world". One will be wasting time asking them when they have been converted to Democracy after being all their lives fervent preachers of its opposite. One will also be wasting time reminding them that Democracy is not only beautiful lyrics, it is also and mostly real, concrete and tangible way of political decision making process. They will invariably answer: "don't you get confused, OUR Democracy is not like any other, it is "SPECIFIC" to our specific context!". And if one persists in this kind of "deaf dialogue" and ask: "then what IS IT your "SPECIFIC Democracy"? They will answer: "well, we cannot tell you exactly what IT IS but we sure can tell you what IT IS NOT!". They may continue and talk about what "their "Specific Democracy" IS NOT, saying: "In our Democracy WE DO NOT ALLOW political parties basing their program on this! In our Democracy WE STRONGLY FORBID political parties having their programs based on that! In our Democracy WE DO NOT PERMIT AT ALL political parties having their program based on the other!... etc... etc..." and all this is said against a background of a military parade music!

This is the dictatorship way of staying above any criticism by removing from the people any set of reference against which its actions will be measured and known to everyone. The dictatorship will not say what IT IS and therefore giving the people a reference against which they will ask for their rights. No the dictatorship will say what IT IS NOT (forbidden, prohibited, interdiction,...) in order to give itself a reference of its own make by which it will legitimate repression of any social or political demands. This "code" of "interdictions" is off course updated by the dictatorship as it goes through historical experiences where its authority comes to be seriously challenged by the people. It is updated as to eliminate potential "contestants" from the "game" thus perpetrating the "status-quo" which remains unaffected by eventual "cosmetic alterations".

In Algeria the "Specific Democracy" the regime is now talking about, is "ringing many old bells" from the two decades or so following the Independence of that country in 1962. Indeed, the dictatorship has chosen "Socialism" as a project of society. There were no other way then, for those in charge of the "State" who most of them were poor financially speaking, to get rich quickly, except by declaring that all of Algeria's wealth is property of the "State" of which they were unaccountably in charge of! So as the Nomenklatura could not resist the urge of exhibiting its new accumulated wealth ("sickness of the newly rich"), some people went to the reference, read "Das Kapital" and came back shouting outrageously "this is not Socialism! This is State Capitalism!". The dictatorship answered them quickly: "Our Socialism is SPECIFIC to Algeria. IT IS NOT this, nor that, nor the other!". Goodbye the reference, goodbye the "balance"! The dictatorship also added for the sake of good argument: "Never forget that Algeria is a Muslim country. We do not take all what Karl Marx has said as divine truth!". To which the Islamist overheard and intervened: "did you say Islam?!! Then why are you not doing this and that and are doing the opposite?". The dictatorship said: "do not forget the SPECIFICITY of Algeria and don't you go bringing us "the Islam of Afghanistan, or Sudan, or Iran, or Saudi Arabia...!".

This is the nature of the dictatorship. It wants to remain doing what ever it pleases to and never be caught. It is like, as a poet put it, "a fish covered with soap in a mercury sea".

However the dilemma in Algeria has been that when ever the dictatorship present a project it makes sure that voices criticising it are forbidden to speak up. It is only after many years when the irreversible damage is done, money gone and new team is brought to the "diner table", that the dictatorship does not only make

those voices heard but present them as its own! The last November elections are just one of them and the actual mood of the three parties which helped out, is a preliminary sign that it was a wrong thing for Algeria.

General Zeroual shows a little of his "game"!

Following "discussion" with his seventy or so guests, General Zeroual came up from his "political hibernation" and gave a press conference from which some of his game and cards has been seen or shown. Observers of the Algerian scene have made the following preliminary observations:

— General Zeroual declared that the causes of today "crisis" in Algeria is the precipitation by which the "multi-partism" transition has been operated. General Zeroual was always accused of being solidly bounded to the military hierarchy commandment responsible for the coup d'Etat of January 1992. Some political voices have indeed asked him to take his distances from that team and that he can not pretend to have "legitimacy" from both the military coup and the November elections. So by throwing the blame on President Chadli's team, General Zeroual may have taught that this kind of declaration can make everybody happy, the military Generals and the politicians. No doubt that the origins of the Algerian problems goes far in History and that every team that succeeded at the head of the regime has its part of responsibility. However the talk today differs from previous years by more than 70,000 Algerian people dead since the military coup of 1992! The timing of the military coup lift all doubts about its objectives. Indeed, as soon as the Algerian people spoke up, the military intervene to stop the electoral process. Why haven't they intervene before that? This only means that their intervention was motivated not by the Algerian people "speaking" but rather by what they have "said" on December 1991. This makes the military intervention a politically motivated intervention which has nothing to do whatsoever with the safety of the "State", as they pretend, and no matter what the final score would have been, the then president would still have had the constitutional power to dissolve the parliament. It was a case of the Algerian people choosing political representatives that were not the Generals' "favorites" but were more of a real threat to any kind of corruption. The dishonest and dishonourable coup against the Algerian people free will, is that the military generals have waited until the partial results were known. Had the Algerian people voted otherwise, the Generals would have accepted and "respected" the will of the "heroic" Algerian people.

So the restoration of the real historical facts concerning the ongoing tragedy is of a paramount importance for

the future of Algeria! The names of its real instigators should be registered in History books alongside with the many others "butchers", Algeria had in her History!

General Zeroual did not talk about how to stop the war and went straight to "technicalities" of elections and law amendments as if the seventy thousands Algerian died for a problem of parliamentary seats or articles in the constitution. At this stage many observers do not believe that the end of the war can be achieved through new decrees or laws and definitely not by arrogance and pretention of building a future for Algeria without the FIS. And this will remain so even if the military regime, by some kind of magic, will align all the Algerian political opposition and even the UN to its position!

— General Zeroual has announced that legislative elections will be held before the end of the first semester of 1997 followed by local elections. For the rest of this year, there will be a "national conference" and a referendum concerning a new constitution.

Without going into details about each point, one can say that this program has nothing to do with the "discussions", General Zeroual had with his guests. This program seems to have been drawn well before these "discussions" and one wonders if not all this including last November elections are a part of a same package. Nevertheless the timing makes it look as if the program was just a "compilation" of suggestions made by General Zeroual's guests and what the General did was just putting them together.

The only added part seems to be the "national conference" which General Zeroual did not say what is its exact mission if any and if it will or not have power of irrefutable decision. Some observers are already speculating that this conference may just be used prior to the referendum to suggest that the proposed amendments of the constitution are not General Zeroual idea but the participants wishes.

Algeria is entering a crucial phase in which a selective process will be undergone by which the Algerian people will catalogue authentic political forces which defend the people interests from those who love to seat on a parliament seat more than anything else.

Egypt

Egypt: PRC President Jiang Zemin Arrives on 4-Day Visit

NC1305154496 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1508 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 May (MENA) — PRC President Jiang Zemin arrived in Cairo this afternoon

from Ethiopia on his first official four-day visit to Egypt. He was received at Cairo Airport by Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture, and the chairman of the Egyptian-Chinese friendship society.

Egypt: Economic, Technical, Cultural Agreements Signed With China

NC1405092896 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0804 GMT 14 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Chinese President Jiang Zemin today witnessed the signing of three agreements that strengthen cooperation between Egypt and China in the economic, technical, and cultural fields.

The first agreement pertains to economic and technological cooperation, signed on the Egyptian side by Dr. Nawal al-Tatawi, minister of economy and international cooperation, and on the Chinese side by Wu Yi, minister of foreign trade and economic cooperation.

Egypt's Manpower Minister Ahmad al-'Amawi and Wu Yi also signed the technical cooperation protocol between the Ministry of Manpower and the Chinese Labor Ministry.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Qian Qichen, Chinese minister of foreign affairs and deputy prime minister, signed the executive program for cultural cooperation.

The signing ceremony was also attended on the Egyptian side by Prime Minister Kamal al-Janzuri and the ministers of information, foreign affairs, education, interior, manpower, supply, and economy as well as the chief of the Presidential Office and Egypt's ambassador in China. It was also attended by the members of the official delegation accompanying the Chinese president.

Egypt: PRC President Ends Talks With Mubarak, To Meet al-Janzuri

NC1405094796 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0845 GMT 14 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Chinese President Jiang Zemin concluded two days of talks today. The Chinese president, however, will still hold talks with Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal al-Janzuri. The two countries' foreign ministers will also hold talks.

Presidents Mubarak and Jiang witnessed the signing of several cooperation agreements by the concerned ministers.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated, after the conclusion of the presidential talks, that discussions between the two countries will be resumed on the foreign minister level. He added that Prime Minister Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri will discuss in detail with the Chinese president ways of boosting bilateral relations in various fields and will outline to him the Egyptian economic reform process and related plans.

Musa added that Presidents Mubarak and Jiang praised their countries' bilateral relations, emphasizing the depth of their traditional ties, particularly as Egypt was the first Arab and African country to recognize the People's Republic of China 40 years ago and to establish relations with it in May 1956.

The Egyptian foreign minister said that today's talks between the two presidents focused on bilateral relations, the general situation in the Middle East, at the UN Security Council, in Asia, and the rest of the world, discussing the positive and negative consequences of what is described as the new world order.

Concerning the role that China is expected to play in restoring balance to some regions, Musa said that China is undertaking this role right now. He added that it is also backing Middle East peace efforts.

Regarding the existing cooperation and trade exchange between the two countries, the Egyptian foreign minister said that the volume of this trade is not at all proportional to the strong ties between Egypt and China. He noted that Egypt's annual exports to China amount only to \$15 million. In comparison, the volume of trade between China and Dubai is \$1 billion.

Egypt: Musa Comments on Syrian, Lebanese Absence From Cairo Summit

NC1305211496 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2030 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said yesterday's tripartite summit in Cairo was about the Palestinian-Israeli track and coordination on this track among Palestine, Jordan, and Egypt.

Replying to a reporter's question today on why Syria and Lebanon did not take part in the summit, Musa said: This does not negate Syria's importance, because the Syrian and Lebanese tracks complement the peace process.

Egypt: Papers—Tripartite Summit Made Peace Strategic Option

NC1405090396 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0520 GMT 14 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—The Cairo newspapers today declare that the tripartite summit among President Husni Mubarak, Jordan's King Husayn, and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat held in Cairo two days ago was the summit of a just and comprehensive peace, designating peace an unchangeable and strategic objective and a way to economic development, reconstruction, security, and stability.

In an editorial AL-JUMHURIYAH says the tripartite summit was a fresh demonstration of the need to continue the peace process and resume negotiations on all the Arab-Israeli negotiating tracks as promptly as possible.

The paper adds that the summit provided clear guidelines for the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations within the context of a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace and that its timing was significant for the peace process and for the general conditions in the Middle East.

AL-AKHBAR notes that the tripartite summit made things clear in connection with inter-Arab coordination before the permanent status negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. It adds that the Cairo summit adopted practical measures to promote Arab coordination and provided a permanent ministerial mechanism for coordination and follow-up in a way that will necessarily enhance solidarity and agreement among the three sides.

Concluding, AL-AKHBAR expresses the hope that the tripartite summit will mark the beginning of fresh Arab cooperation and coordination efforts.

Jalal Duwaydar, chief editor of AL-AKHBAR, says in an article that the coming stage will require all the Arabs to settle their differences and formulate an understanding among themselves that will preserve their unity and solidarity. He points out that at the same time they must increase their contacts with U.S. officials and coordinate their stances with the European countries to convince them that stability in the Middle East and the Arab region in general on the basis of a just and comprehensive peace will serve long-term U.S. and Western interests.

Duwaydar adds that Arab solidarity is not directed against these interests, but aims to guarantee the right of existence, a secure life, economic development, and the building of a good future. He explains that the current efforts must seek to alter U.S. ideas to bring them more into line with the principles of international law that

backed the United States when it confronted Saddam Husayn's aggression against Kuwait.

The writer points out that no one is asking the United States to be biased toward the Arabs. All we ask of it, he says, is that it be a fair and neutral partner, that it act positively to serve the security and stability of all the region's countries without exception, and that it stop nurturing Israel's hostile tendencies, which recently exceeded all bounds on the territory of peaceable Lebanon.

AL-AHRAM Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' writes that the tripartite summit formulated a framework for a long-term process of building relations among Egypt, Jordan, and Palestine. He says the summit was not merely symbolic or a photo opportunity but was real and had good results.

Nafi' adds that coordination among the three parties will clarify the details of the peace process as agreed upon by the Arabs. He says it was outlined succinctly in the joint communique and news conference that peace represents a strategic and moral option involving land for peace, withdrawal from the occupied territories, the renunciation of the concepts of expansionism and domination, and commitment to the Palestinian people's national rights including the establishment of an independent state.

He explains that coordination among the three leaders involved agreement to hold summits at specified places and times and within the context of a mechanism with known specific tasks. He adds that the Arab public can use these set tasks as a criterion for the purpose of accountability.

Nafi' asserts that tripartite coordination paves the way for broader Arab coordination and meetings involving all those who sincerely wish to serve Arab causes within an equitable and just peace.

Egypt: Commentary Views Implications of Tripartite Summit

NC1305132896 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 13 May 96

[Commentary by Mahmud Marzuq: "Cairo Summit: A New Mechanism To Give Momentum to the Peace Process and Restore Arab Solidarity"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The tripartite summit that was held in Cairo yesterday by President Mubarak, King Husayn, and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat takes on special significance because of the sensitivity of the circumstances surrounding the region and its issues and the pressing need to coordinate the Arab position

and support Palestinian rights — particularly when it comes to tripartite cooperation in connection with the issues of Jerusalem, the return of the refugees, and the settlements, as well as enhancing economic cooperation among the three parties.

The summit was a vivid example of Egypt's dedication to Arab issues, because the peace process concerns all Arabs. The difficulties inter-Arab relations are facing definitely affect the collective Arab position and all the consolidated efforts heading in the right direction.

We should not forget that Arab solidarity and reconciliation is a pressing and strategic necessity to cope with the burdens of the 21st century and the big economic groupings. Thus, the tripartite summit came to embody the nation's aspirations to serious, sincere, and responsible action that improves the Arab situation and ends the state of discord and degeneration. The summit will thus have good, positive reflections and important, distinctive, and great implications and meanings at both Arab and international levels. Most observers say the summit has definitely created a real foundation and a solid nucleus for enhancing Arab progress, in the context of their desired solidarity. This solidarity is based on backing the Palestinian and Syrian negotiators, particularly under the recent cease-fire agreement between Lebanon and Israel, the cease-fire that followed the brutal Israeli aggression on the Lebanese territories and Lebanese sovereignty. This solidarity is also demonstrated by the fact that Egypt and Jordan are giving the Palestinian Authority full support in the negotiations with Israel.

There was clear consensus on the support the Palestinians need in order to guarantee success in the final phase negotiations with Israel. This is an important step to speed up these negotiations, contribute to their success, and establish the Palestinian people's lawful rights on their national soil.

The Cairo summit was one of the steps most needed to restore effective Arab solidarity. It paved the way for an all-embracing Arab summit that will end the state of discord that has prevailed since the 1990 Gulf War and restores the required balance to the region and enables it to meet the requirements of the new century. The summit also constituted a clear and resolute position on the need to keep up positive efforts because the interest of the region's people lies in achieving a just and comprehensive peace. The precious goal of peace deserves all these efforts to overcome the obstacles rather than surrender to them. Peace ultimately protects the region against all the hazards surrounding it.

Egypt, therefore, spares no effort to enhance Arab status. If Mubarak's Egypt has won the confidence of Arabs, who rallied around its solid and authentic positions, this

is because Egypt's policy stems from an Arab concept based on full commitment to the nation's issues and preparedness to make every possible effort and sacrifice to defend the issues that have a bearing on the fate of the nation.

President Mubarak has always put higher Arab interests before all else. He has repeatedly stressed the need to coordinate positions, back the Arab negotiators, and pool efforts under the umbrella of solidarity within the framework of the Arab League, because he believes, as do all the Arab masses, that this is the only way to face up to the challenges and confront the plots of enemies.

Thus, we can say without hesitation that the Cairo summit was a sincere and practical contribution to saving the peace process, which suffers more than anything else from Israel's adversary conduct and unethical practices in the Palestinian lands and Lebanon. Israel's prime minister must understand the care the three Arab leaders are taking to maintain the peace process, and the fears they expressed. Unless Israel eliminates these fears through sincere cooperation, the consequences for everyone will be sad, and the loss will be grave — and even graver for Israel.

Egypt: Speaker's Meeting With Sudanese Counterpart Ruled Out

NC1305201696 Cairo MENA in English
1928 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, 13 May (MENA)—A top-ranking parliamentary source ruled out the possibility of holding a meeting between Speaker of the People's Assembly Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur and the speaker of the Sudanese parliament on the sidelines of the meetings of the Arab Parliamentary Union set for Damascus on Tuesday [14 May].

The source told MENA this evening that there are no plans or willingness to hold such a meeting.

The source was commenting on statements carried by the London-based AL-HAYAH newspaper to the effect that such a meeting is probable.

Egypt: Egyptian Spying for Iraqi, Russian Intelligence Arrested

NC1305142896 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I
in Arabic 4 May 96 p 1

[Report by 'Adil al-Suruji]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Higher State Security Prosecution has announced the arrest of an Egyptian spying for the Iraqi and Russian intelligence services.

A source close to the investigation has shed light on the arrest. High-level security agencies monitored the spy's movement at home and abroad and arrested him at an Egyptian port. The investigations, conducted by Prosecutor Sharif 'Abd-al-Nabi under the supervision of Hisham Saraya, public attorney at the Higher State Security Prosecution, revealed that the spy had been a former employee of the Passport Administration in al-Minya Governorate. After his dismissal from his job, he travelled to Iraq, where he was recruited by Iraqi intelligence services to act later as a source of disturbance in Egypt. The investigations, which are followed by Public Prosecutor Raja' al-'Arabi, revealed that the accused had worked at a huge project in Iraq supervised by the Russian Government, whose intelligence service also managed to recruit him. Russian intelligence officers asked him to gather information and provide them with sketches of strategic installations in Egypt. The spy admitted that he had returned to Egypt at the instructions of the Iraqi intelligence service. He was arrested at Nuwayba' Port immediately after his return.

A source at the Higher State Security Prosecution has stated that the defendant had made full confession about his recruitment and admitted the charges made against him. He was remanded to custody pending further investigations by the prosecutors to determine how much information he supplied the Iraqi and Russian intelligence services.

Meanwhile, the Military Prosecution is scheduled to begin today its interrogation of an Egyptian spy working for Israeli intelligence. The Military Prosecution Department has received the case's files from the Higher State Security Prosecution. A responsible source has stated that the Military Prosecution has ordered the defendant to custody for 45 days, pending interrogation to determine how much information he supplied to Israeli intelligence officers.

Egypt: First Phase of Naval Maneuvers With Italy, France Ends

*NC1305163696 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1300 GMT 13 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandria, 13 May (MENA)—The first phase of the five-day naval exercise "Cleopatra 96," which began in the Mediterranean Saturday [11 May] with units from Egypt, France, and Italy, was concluded today. The naval units taking part in the exercise conducted a drill in applying electronic warfare, fire-fighting, ship repair, and communication techniques, in addition to a shooting exercise.

A coordination meeting involving all unit commanders was held at the conclusion of the first phase, to establish

cooperation before the start of the second phase of the exercise, the maritime training, on Tuesday. The second phase involves sailing, maritime formations, and shooting at maritime and air targets. It will be followed by a third phase that involves evaluation and analysis of lessons learned.

A total of 13 naval units of various types are taking part in the exercise, in addition to fighter and reconnaissance aircraft.

Some seven Egyptian naval units are involved in the exercise. They are: — A Fox destroyer, the latest addition to the Egyptian navy. It detects and destroys submarines; — A Descubierta corvette; — A traditional Romeo class submarine; — Four Ramadan fast-attack crafts; and, — Fighter and naval reconnaissance aircraft.

The French Navy is taking part with four units: — A Duplex destroyer; — A Duquesne destroyer; — A (Marne) replenishment tanker; and, — A nuclear-propelled (Alimaron) submarine.

The Italian side is taking part with two units: — A (Zmird) frigate; and, — A Sfinge corvette.

This is the first time the Italian Navy is taking part in these particular maneuvers, which involved only Egypt and France in the past. Although the Egyptian Navy had conducted joint maneuvers with the Italian Navy in the Mediterranean in the past.

The objective of the Cleopatra 96 exercise is to exchange expertise and train commanders in ways to control naval formations during maritime exercises, and in supply and shooting operations in cooperation with friendly states.

Libya

Libya: South Africa Reviews Ties, Lockerbie, Chemical Weapons

*LD1305185396 Tripoli JANA in English
1746 GMT 13 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TRIPOLI, WL MAA 13 [May 13], JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of South Africa [RSA] has issued a statement reaffirming the depth of its bilateral relations with the Great Jamahiriya and responded to some allegations over these relations.

The statement said: Various media and press reports have recently handled, with some emphasis, the relations of the Republic of South Africa with Libya and our position regarding Lockerbie.

It is regrettable that most of the reports in this concern were not correct and did not reflect the right frame.

South Africa has emphasised in many occasions and through public opinion its condemnation for all forms of terrorism as well as its objection for the proliferation of mass destruction weapons. That emphasis was clear and unequivocal.

The Republic of South Africa did not stop at dismantling its nuclear arsenal but it has stopped its nuclear programme altogether and is playing an active role to arrive with the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty into a collective form.

Recently we have signed the agreement of 'Blendaba' which declares Africa as a nuclear free zone. We have also made several initiatives towards concluding an agreement for banning chemical weapons.

During the visit to Libya, the foreign affairs minister expressed the mounting concern regarding what is being reiterated concerning the existence of chemical weapons capabilities. Our position in this respect is quite clear.

In respect of Lockerbie crisis the position of the Republic of South Africa remained constant for several years. We have denounced the terrorist act and we demanded the arrest of the culprits in this atrocious crime and the holding of a legal trial for them to enable justice to take its course.

President Mandela has also discussed the issue with the American president, the French president, the British prime minister and a number of other state leaders.

The Organization of African Unity has tackled this subject for several years and established a ministerial committee assigned to open channels for liaison and dialogue with the aim of reaching a fair and just settlement for the dispute.

This committee, however, is in constant contact with those who could play a role in this respect with the aim of reaching an end to this impasse.

The Republic of South Africa is acting within this pattern to find a solution to this problem.

In view of our concern towards the presence of a crisis between Libya and the three Western states whose nationals were killed in Lockerbie incident, the Republic of South Africa, like of the Organization of African Unity, is exerting all efforts to solve this delicate issue.

The Republic of South Africa is committed to exerting efforts and encouraging peaceful solutions for disputes. The Republic of South Africa, represented in its Foreign Ministry, will continue its actions through bilateral and multi-lateral efforts, wherever we are.

The visit made by the foreign affairs minister comes within the pattern of a strategic act which adds to our

voice and enables us to offer assistance to the initiatives aiming at achieving peace, stability and development.

The foreign affairs minister, in every meeting, handles the issued tackled by the press and media and expresses concern towards those issues.

Finally and with the objective of establishing the facts and subjectivity, we advise that it is necessary at least to study all issues with the Foreign Affairs Ministry to know our point of view in that respect.

Libya: LNSF Calls For International Support for 'Commando Operations'

MM1305160396 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
13 May 96 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Libyan 'Salvation' Urges Support for Operations in Libya"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — The opposition Libyan National Salvation Front [LNSF] has urged support for "the daring commando operations" being carried out in Libya against the regime and talked about "brutal repression campaigns in many cities." The LNSF statement said:

"Our people in Libya are being subjected to brutal repression campaigns in several Libyan cities and villages. These campaigns include all forms of terrorism and humiliation and all types of crimes such as intimidating innocent people, hunting down citizens, wide-ranging arbitrary arrests, subjecting detainees to questioning and torture, as well as some wide-ranging dragnet operations especially in the cities of Libya's eastern region, where entire cities have been sealed off for several days, their inhabitants prevented from leaving, while power and water have been cut off in cities like Darnah, Ajdabiya, and al-Abyar. The worst aspects of these terrorist campaigns have been the return of the revolutionary organs and committees to their old methods of exacting revenge on innocent people and intimidating citizens by destroying the homes of Libyan families in several Libyan cities." The statement added: "The LNSF condemns these practices which are premeditated crimes against the Libyan people as a whole, and blatant violations of human rights."

"The LNSF reaffirms the Libyan people's right to defend themselves, their honor, and their wealth, and to work diligently with all available legitimate means to topple the al-Qadhdhafi regime and what it represents. Therefore the LNSF reiterates its support for all efforts aimed at achieving this objective, and especially the daring and bold commando operations carried out over the past months."

The LNSF urged "all national, Arab, Islamic, and international human rights organizations to make further efforts with regard to the human rights issue in Libya." It urged "all brotherly and friendly states to take the appropriate moral and principled stand on the Libyan people's plight, including helping those who are forced by the regime's despotic policies to seek asylum in them."

Morocco

Morocco: New Party Established as Breakaway From Popular Movement

LD1305134096 Rabat MAP in English
1313 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, May 13 (MAP) — A new Moroccan political party is born in Morocco, bringing the total number of recognized political formations to 15, Moroccan media announced Monday [13 May]. The party "Mouvement National Democrate Social" (MNDS) was set up by a group of 17 members of parliament who defected a year ago [from] the "Mouvement National Populaire" (MNP) led by Mahjoubi Ahardane.

The newly-born party says it is "rooted in a particular socio-cultural segment which has not yet been able to find its place in the national political scene". The constituent congress of this party is set for June 8. Among the already existing political parties in Morocco, 10 are represented in parliament.

Morocco: Youths Protest Israeli Tourists' Visit to Oujda

LD1405092396 Casablanca AL-ITTIHAD
AL-ISHTIRAKI in Arabic 8 May p 1

[Unattributed report: "Israelis in Oujda"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last Sunday [12 May] evening a group of Israeli tourists consisting of 175 persons arrived in Sidi Yahia western oasis in the city of Oujda. The Israeli group was welcomed with songs and folkloric chants, a matter which provoked the feelings of some youths, who raised placards against the normalization [of relations with Israel] and against Israeli occupation.

Afterward the police arrested four protesting youths. However, they were released later on condition that they returned to the police station the next day.

Sudan

Sudan: Al-Bashir Says 'Arab Afghans' Expelled

JN1405055496 London AL-WASAT in Arabic
13-19 May 96 pp 26-28

[Interview with Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir by correspondent 'Abd-al-Nabi Yusuf Shahin in Jeddah "at the end of the pilgrimage season"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Shahin] It has been said recently that the Government of Sudan asked a number of the "Arab Afghans" to leave the country. Is this correct?

[Al-Bashir] Anyone who resides in Sudan and who carries out activities that are hostile to the government of his country, or to other governments, must leave the country immediately. This applied to some persons whom we felt had carried out such activities. So we asked them to leave the country.

[Shahin] How many were they?

[Al-Bashir] I do not recall the number now.

[Shahin] Did this happen to improve your relations with Egypt?

[Al-Bashir] We act in accordance with this principle because we do not want to turn Sudan into a base for any hostile act toward any neighborly country. [passage omitted]

[Shahin] Did the Saudi officials talk with you, in previous contacts or during your current visit, about [Saudi businessman] Usamah Bin-Ladin, who resides in Khartoum?

[Al-Bashir] The Saudis expressed dissatisfaction with and complained about the activities of Usamah Bin-Ladin. So we stopped these activities and prevented them. Now, Bin-Ladin does not carry out any of these activities and he is only running investment projects in Sudan.

[Shahin] To what extent will the Security Council resolution, imposing political and diplomatic sanctions on Sudan, restrict the government's efforts to improve its foreign relations?

[Al-Bashir] There is no doubt that the countries which will comply with this resolution will somewhat restrict our movement. However, it is known that the Security Council resolution does not call for severing diplomatic relations with Sudan. Therefore, with the continuation of diplomatic relations our moves will continue.

[Shahin] What will happen if the Security Council tightens its sanctions against Sudan to cover the military and economic aspects too?

[Al-Bashir] Then we will act according to what will emerge. However, we hope that nothing like this will happen.

[Shahin] What are your internal precautions and preparations to face the consequences of such a decision if it is made?

[Al-Bashir] We gave priority to the exploitation of the Sudanese oil because there is nothing more dangerous than oil sanctions, despite the fact that this is completely ruled out because oil is very important in our life. Exploitation of Sudanese oil is our top priority.

[Shahin] The Middle East peace process has continued, and so has normalization with Israel, which has so far included Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, and other Arab and Gulf states. Where does Sudan stand on this issue?

[Al-Bashir] Our stand on this matter is very clear; namely, enabling the Palestinian people to restore all their rights and to set up their independent state on their land.

[Shahin] What position will you take if the negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks succeed and if Syria signs a peace agreement with Israel?

[Al-Bashir] We do not link our positions to whether a certain state signs or does not sign peace agreements with Israel. Our position is linked to the substance of the cause which concerns the whole Palestinian people and their occupied territories. If a Palestinian state is established in the occupied Arab territories and if the Palestinian people fully regain their rights, our position must change in this regard.

[Shahin] Hence, your position has nothing to do with the Syrian track?

[Al-Bashir] We commend Syria's strong positions and its insistence on the constants of the Arab cause. By the time Syria and Lebanon sign a peace agreement, we will have reached a final solution to the Palestine question, God willing.

[Shahin] It was circulated that the recent tour made by Ba'ashi Salah-al-Din Karrar, minister for the Council of Ministers affairs in your government, of some Arab states which have connections with Israel included an indirect contact with Israel. What is your comment?

[Al-Bashir] These visits were part of wide government contacts with a number of states to basically explain Sudan's position on the Security Council's resolution. Within this framework, I personally visited some of

these states. We also sent envoys or messages or held telephone calls with other states. [passage omitted]

[Shahin] What is the true military situation on Sudan's eastern and southern borders?

[Al-Bashir] What is taking place on our country's eastern borders is a result of a problem with the Ethiopian and Eritrean regimes. There are no rebel forces (the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement led by Colonel John Garang) on the eastern borders. Most of the troops fighting us there are Ethiopian and Eritrean troops, along with a very few rebels. The rebels have actually lost much of their strength.

[Shahin] What were the circumstances under which the Sudanese Army withdrew from the town of Fashala [name as transliterated] near Ethiopia in favor of the forces of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army?

[Al-Bashir] The government force which was stationed in Fashala was a battalion tasked with protecting the town from rebel attacks. It was a sufficient force for this task because the citizens cooperated with it in defending their town. However, Ethiopian forces attacked the town and only 166 rebels participated in this attack. It would have been impossible for such few rebels to storm the government garrison had the Ethiopian forces, reinforced with tanks and aircraft, not taken part in the attack.

Naturally, the government garrison there was prepared to deal with the rebels who usually carry light weapons. The rebels could not acquire tanks in that area, especially since the autumn began and all roads inside Sudan leading to this town were completely closed, except for the roads leading to it from the rocky Ethiopian heights.

[Shahin] Is there any contingent plan to regain this town and other areas controlled by the Garang forces?

[Al-Bashir] This will take place soon, God willing. [passage omitted]

Sudan: Taha Comments on Security Council Resolution

EA1305222796 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mr. Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha, the foreign minister, today delivered a statement in the National Assembly in its session chaired by Dr. Hasan Abdullah al-Turabi, the assembly's speaker. The minister dealt with UN Security Council Resolution 1054 and the arrangements made by his ministry to deal with this resolution.

The statement said that the Egyptian-Ethiopian charges on which the resolution was based were not in harmony

with the nature and ethics of the Sudanese people. He said: Sudan is at present making intensive efforts to respond to those charges through the mechanism for African conflict resolution. Sudan has also addressed invitations to all international and regional organizations to visit Sudan.

He added that Sudan had always voiced its disapproval of the secret trials in Ethiopia and said that the Security Council's resolution was not based on objective details but on a political agenda reflecting the obvious targeting of Sudan and its cultural schemes. He said that the resolution ignored all the efforts made by Sudan, as well as the documents and papers it submitted, to confirm the correctness of its position. The Security Council resolution also ignored the appearance of Mustafa Hamza and his statements to the media. He stressed, in this regard, that the Security Council had become an arena for settling political scores. [passage omitted]

Sudan: Rebels Return Following Signing of Peace Deal

*EA1305210096 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic
1020 GMT 13 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 13 May (SUNA) — The Abyei area in southern Kordofan state is receiving a flow of returnees from the rebel movement, following the signature of the [political] charter for peace between the government and two rebel factions led by Dr. Riak Machar and Kerubino Kuanyin Bol, a charter in which they agreed to participate in the peace process and contribute to development in the country.

In this connection, Prince Kuol Deng [Majok] of Dinka Abyei, has told SUNA that the voluntary return of the rebels was prompted by the degeneration of rebel Garang's movement into gangsters looting the property of peaceful citizens.

Western Sahara

Western Sahara: Envoy—Minurso Withdrawal May Cause Renewed Hostilities

*LD1305181296 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in French 1130 GMT 13 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The latest report from the UN secretary general has provoked indignation and a

sharp reaction from Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro]. The withdrawal of Minurso, the United Nations Mission for the Organization of a Referendum in the Western Sahara, suggested by Butrus-Ghali will result in the failure of the UN plan. There is frustration on the Saharan side. (Boubehi Youssef Salek) the ambassador of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic, speaks to Waled Salman.

[Begin Salek recording] In his report, the secretary general quite simply suggests the withdrawal of the Minurso, while proposing that the cease fire be maintained. For us this is a failure of Minurso. Furthermore, we are frustrated that the secretary general is suggesting to the UN security Council that Minurso should just be withdrawn. [end recording]

For the Saharan ambassador in Algiers, the secretary general's arguments are unacceptable. You will be able to hear him in a moment. He stresses that the resumption of hostilities remains a possible option.

[Begin Salek recording] This is exactly what he says: I feel obliged to recommend that the process of identification [of voters eligible to vote in the referendum on the future of the Western Sahara] be suspended. To be honest with you, we never believed that the basic problem of Minurso's presence in Western Sahara and the peace process was a budgetary one. I would also like to point out that the prospect of the withdrawal of the UN mission from the Sahara is making the situation worse and makes the resumption of hostilities probable and imminent, this can only be damaging for hopes of peace and stability in the region. [end recording]

Bahrain

Bahrain: Opposition Figure Views Latest Events, Demands

NC1305201296 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic* 1730 GMT 13 May 96

[Interview with Dr. Mansur al-Jamri by an unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "News and Reports" Program—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] There are various reports from Bahrain about trials and the death of some prisoners, there have also been developments outside Bahrain. Since you follow the news from Bahrain, what can you say about the situation?

[Al-Jamri] Judging from the number of martyrs in the last few days, it seems that they increase every day. After the martyrdom of Fadil 'Abbas last Monday [6 May], there was an explosion that caused the death of an entire family—Salman Zaytun and his wife and son.

We later heard of 'Abd-al-Amir Hasan Rustum. Had this man been in another country, its government would have provided psychiatric care for him because he is mentally ill. When the government and its security forces attacked [word indistinct] a few days ago, he was among those present. They beat him to death or so we heard. We do not know if the government is still refusing to hand his body over to his family.

Also there are reports that two others were martyred, but we are not sure of these. One man died from suffocation. When he was sent for treatment, he did not receive adequate medical treatment, which led to his martyrdom. This will be clarified after an investigation.

Martyrs are falling; conditions are getting worse; and the world has begun to realize what is taking place in Bahrain. This is in addition to numerous moves outside Bahrain, including very high-level visits in the region. Everyone is anxious to know what is happening in Bahrain and everyone is astonished that the government insists on this hostile policy against a peaceful people who have nothing but reasonable, simple, and legitimate demands. Everyone agrees that these demands do not warrant this violent reaction by the authorities in Bahrain. We hope that the government will stop at this point, because the people can no longer tolerate it. Even if the news of the deaths of people is released in installments to ameliorate reactions, this will be futile, as we saw in the last few days. Demonstrations were held in [place name indistinct], Diraz, and Karzakkan. The demonstrators were attacked, but the demonstrations are continuing, rejection is continuing, and the gap between the government and people is increasing every

day. However, the government's measures, such as the mock trials that we hear of every day, will be useless.

We are waiting to see what will happen to our brothers in jail and to those who will stand trial this week. We know that Muhammad Sahwan and others will be brought to trial on charges concerning the death of a policeman in December 1994 when these events were just beginning. Another trial is likely for those falsely and unjustly accused by the authorities of causing the deaths of seven of our Bangladeshi brothers.

We believe that many of the explosions taking place these days are carried out by elements linked to the security agency in order to inflame the situation in order to break the will of this nation. There is no trust left between this people and the government because of these hostile measures.

Today is the day of unity among all sectors of society. The reports the government is trying to publish in some Gulf newspapers will be futile. These reports accuse Ahmad al-Shamlan, Dr. al-Mahmud, and others of forsaking the nation's demands. Sources inside Bahrain have confirmed to us that there is nothing to this.

The entire nation is suffering and the whole society is suffering from this oppression, this racial, tribal, and sectarian discrimination. No one can accept this; they must not become desperate in the face of these repeated attempts and this continuous onslaught against the Bahraini people.

Therefore, the opposition issued a statement today asserting that it would be useless to change the geography of Bahrain or the demographic composition and cause disorder in the ruling system [as heard] to generate despair among the people about the constitutional demands. There are just demands that will persist no matter how long the road is. We will not relent and break down in the face of what is taking place these days.

This year's Muharram [Arabic month] will show that the nation will not abandon its religion, standards, and traditions. It will demonstrate the unity that has annoyed the government. This unity will continue to annoy those who do not like to see unity among the Bahraini people.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: Clinton's 'Excuses' for Qana 'Massacre' Censured

JN1305200796 *Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic*
12 May 96 p 7

[Editorial: "It Is Not Easy for Us To Forget"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is common knowledge that the successive U.S. administrations, both Republican and Democratic, have been biased toward Israel since its inception. If we are to compare and contrast, then we must say that the Democratic administrations have been more biased. President Bill Clinton's remarks can be viewed within this perspective. Clinton, speaking at a news conference on Thursday [9 May], justified the Israeli massacre in Qana in a manner that will only arouse the dismay of the Arab public opinion. President Clinton gave feeble and unacceptable excuses, like the unavailability of a well-made weapon that distinguishes between civilians and others.

Defending or seeking justifications for the inhumane action committed by Israel is a blatant support that cannot not be voiced by an administration that is keen on acting as a sponsor of or partner in the peace process. While the soldiers who committed the massacre said that they did not shed a single tear on killing more than 100 civilians, Clinton asserted, in his news conference, that "it is easy for the peoples of the region to forget this."

Taking into consideration the statements of the Israeli soldiers, Clinton's justifications, and the UN report on the massacre, we should wonder about the moral credibility that can be wagered on under the new world order. This new order was proclaimed by the Bush administration after the end of the cold war, disintegration of the communist regime in the former Soviet Union, and emergence of the United States as the sole political and military power in the new world. We feel that the new world reflects an imperfection in world political thought represented in disparaging the Arabs.

The question we pose to President Clinton's administration is: Can any wager be laid on a just and permanent peace in the Middle East at a time when the Western liberal values view the Arab citizen as a mere extra figure that nobody needs?

Israeli journalist Arie Shavit [name as transliterated] wrote in the newspaper HA'ARETZ on Friday "there is no importance to the lives of Arabs as long as the White House, U.S. Senate, and THE NEW YORK TIMES are under our disposal." So, we have the right to ask: What degree of importance can be attached to the peace

process if the bias is so flagrant to a degree that does not stir the dismay of the U.S. Administration?

We would like to remind the U.S. President that we, as Arabs, accepted peace because it is the option that falls in line with our interests, history, and culture, which champion peace. Therefore, we only ask the U.S. Administration to fully understand our human option and great history and culture. We ask that our position be accepted and respected.

At this crucial phase in the Middle East question, the U.S. Administration and world peace forces need to help us keep the virtue of patience under a corrupt Israeli culture that gives no importance to the Arab citizen.

Saudi Arabia: King Welcomes Palestinian Government, Yemen-Eritrea Pact

LD1305225796 *Riyadh SPA in Arabic*
2122 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 13 May — Custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-af-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, has expressed his appreciation of all the ministries and the department concerned with the pilgrimage and pilgrims for the exceptional success of this year's, 1416 AH [corresponding to year beginning March 1996], pilgrimage plan. [passage omitted]

That was stated at a meeting of the Council of Ministers chaired by King Fahd this evening at Salam Palace in Jeddah. [passage omitted]

Later, King Fahd reviewed the situation in the Arab and Islamic arenas and developments in these arenas during last week.

In this context, the king welcomed the formation of the new Palestinian government and expressed the kingdom's hope that the government would fulfill the Palestinian people's aspirations and hopes in various development fields.

The king also expressed the kingdom's satisfaction at the agreement reached between the brotherly Republic of Yemen and Eritrea regarding the Yemeni-Eritrean dispute over the Yemeni Hannish islands through international arbitration following diplomatic efforts by France.

In the Islamic sphere, the king briefed the Council of Ministers on developments in Bosnia and expressed the kingdom's concern about the violations suffered by Bosnian Muslims at the hands of the Serbs. He called for the practical implementation of all the clauses of the Dayton peace accord and the need for the Serbs not to breach them. He said: "The implementation of and adherence to the accord will, God willing, guarantee the

achievement of security and peace for the signatories of the accord."

Saudi Arabia: Reform Movement Message From 'Inside'

MM1305084796 London AL-ISLAH in Arabic
6 May 96

[Appendix attached to Bulletin No. 8 issued by the Islamic Reform Movement, signed by Abu Maryam al-'Amiri, member of the executive bureau of the Reform Movement: "From the Inside [of Saudi Arabia]"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the Merciful and Compassionate.

A General Statement from the Heart to the People.

Praise be to God and prayers and peace be upon our Prophet, the Messenger of God, his family, his companions, and those who hold allegiance to him.

Dear brothers, the bases of the Reform Movement [al-harakah al-islamiyah] and its supporters.

All of the sons of the nation are entitled to feel sad and sorry for the recent events that have befallen the office of the outside [outside Saudi Arabia] in London. We would like, however, to tell our brothers and the sons of our nation frankly from the start that the leadership of the inside wishes to declare to them that it was fully responsible for what happened and that it is only natural for a process conducted by a reform movement endowed with a clear course and genuine objectives, operating under regional and international political conditions and within a society which has been prevented from exercising its basic rights for decades, to encounter crises and obstacles. But what is more important is how to overcome these crises and take control of the nation's future, offering in the process good deeds and sacrifices which would relieve those who sympathize with this call of all sorrow and distress.

When it chose to embark on the path of civil Jihad, adopting for the purpose legitimate methods of change, the Reform Movement decided to shoulder the concerns of the nation, the whole nation, and to inform it in a clear and frank statement that this movement is from them and unto them and that there should be a firm adherence to the true Islamic course and to a pioneering middle-of-the-road [wasatiyah] line, which would save us from any extremism or softness, guided in this respect by God's Book and the teachings of our Prophet, may God bless his soul and grant him grace.

The Reform Movement has taken one initiative after another to further the call mission laid upon its shoulders, to ensure the restoration of usurped rights to those weak

sons of the nation whoever and wherever they may be, the educated and the ordinary people, the merchants and the workers, and to save the country from its miserable captivity in the nets of the new international imperialism.

We must make it clear that the Reform Movement's political plan has not stopped nor it will stop at just one initiative. On the contrary, as soon it inaugurates one reform initiative it begins immediately to prepare for the next step that should be followed. Thus, thanks be to God, the Reform Movement has continued to march and still marches along its original promising course. We adhere to our course and we are loyally committed to the sacrifices that we have offered and to working sincerely for the realization of the aspirations of our aggrieved people for deliverance from the wrong they are enduring.

The Reform Movement's political plan has sifted the nation's loyal men and sons and has turned, and is still turning, Islam's true concerns into an objective to be sought by all the sons of the nation, its reform advocates, and honest men, under the immortal Islamic banners in the trenches of confrontation in the field of battle against the new international order.

The Reform Movement has undertaken a large and heavy task, has understood the special conditions in the Kingdom [of Saudi Arabia], its regions, and its people, and has perceived the direct international interference that is taking place and the inflamed regional environment that exists within its territories and around it. Furthermore, it has studied the experience of the movements of change that have taken place in the Islamic world in order to try to avoid the negative effects of these movements and save the country from falling into a state of anarchy despite the attempts being made by the stupid adversary and his ugly ally to drag the country into such a fate. We have understood from the very beginning of our mature movement that we should work to safeguard the entity of this nation and the establishment of the social and political justice that are guaranteed by the Shari'ah.

The Reform Movement has two basic objectives: First, to call for the halting of the series of injustices that are being committed by the regime against the sons of this people and to remind and inform the regime that the people in our homeland are human beings who have full rights and thinking minds and who are capable of joining in the expression of opinions and decisionmaking in accordance with their natural right, which Islam guarantees them, and that the assets God has entrusted to the rulers are no personal bequest left for the Saudi dynasty, as claimed by some of their

insolent members, but rather a right that belongs to the nation to be used in serving its interests in accordance with God's Book and law.

We have made a point — and still do — of resorting to all legitimate means of change along genuine and true stages to stop the deterioration of conditions, to develop them for the better, to convey to people the plan of Islam, which came from God, in all its aspects, and to expose the distortion of this great religion by criminal mercenaries. Our aim has also been to redress things from within and participate in this course step by step, and to alert those in power, if they still have any degree of honesty and sincerity, to the dangers inherent in the presence of the foreigner and in placing the state's destinies in the hands of the international policeman and transforming the state's character into that of a humble servant who never stops lauding and praising the great master.

Our proposition has achieved great success and made every one of the people aware of his rights and of the true relationship between the ruler and the ruled, leading him to develop a personal sense that makes him evaluate all he sees and to trust his mind and thinking powers, in contrast to the past, when the regime used to instill in people's hearts all that would weaken their willpower and negate their power of understanding and thinking. Thus the regime began to find itself besieged and the lies and words of the hypocrites became useless. This state of affairs prompted the regime to embark on promoting limited development based on a closed, monotonous mentality. We do not mean to stop people making use of this limited development on the basis of "take and demand." But we feel sorry for the great hopes some sincere people have been pinning on these alleged reforms which have not put an end to, indeed did not diminish, the organized general looting of the country's economic resources nor did they give the people the freedom to express their views in respect of this country and the conditions in it. The experiment of the consultative council is not far from our minds. Furthermore, this alleged development has given the mercenary self-interest seekers and the extremists of secularism greater scope in this development.

We wish to make it clear to our brothers and the sons of our nation that we have no personal attitudes against this regime. But there are certain types [of people] who burn themselves out and so they cannot coexist with the call for reform. Some of them have shouldered the onus of the legendary injustice and looting that was carried by their family, taking a front position in this respect, and so they abhor all truthful advice and free opinions. To say nothing of their entourage of mercenary self-interest seekers and secular extremists. He [unspecified]

betrayed the nation in a most important matter that was entrusted to a minister, looted the ministry's budget for his personal account, and put the army in a deplorable state, so much so that the honorable officers and men of the army could do nothing but feel sorry for this painful state despite the sincerity of the military sons of the nation and their capabilities that have been obliterated and mutilated to serve the interests of the international policeman, at a time when the army was in dire need of improvements in its conditions in terms of equipment and hardware.

Suffice it to say that he and his other brother have led the confrontation against the reformers, thus shedding the blood of a Muslim just because he poured some acidic material on the clothes of an intelligence officer in connection with a false charge and in an unjust trial with which he had no connection whatsoever. They have also destroyed honest men in prison just because they exercised their most basic right of peaceful expression. Furthermore, many honorable and free men have been expelled from their posts. There are a lot of other such actions.

This state of affairs makes any chance of dialogue with these highwaymen and exercisers of violence impossible in the extreme, because of all that they have done to the nation. We pray to God to open the eyes of those in whom we detect some traces of loyalty to their religion and their nation and who have not been involved in acting against the nation, urging them to help rectify the corruption committed by their kinsfolk and lift the injustice committed against the detainees and oppressed and thus to become sincere in their attitude toward their God and their religion vis-a-vis the enemies in the inside and in the outside.

This was the first objective, and praise be to God a large part of it has been achieved. The enemies of the people have been unmasked and their crimes have been exposed and this fact has become a nightmare that disturbs their sleep. An instrument of pressure on the tyrants and their supporters came into being. This is in addition to incalculable means and information God has made it possible to accumulate. God grants good to whoever He wishes.

As to the second objective, it is to prepare the nation ideologically for the era that will follow the development of matters and the collapse of the regime because of the anarchy which it itself is creating or if it is brought down by external parties (something that seems more likely to us today than at any time past). Thus it was necessary to lay down concepts and bases that would act as common factors for the nation to rally around and embrace, for the sake of holding a general confer-

ence which would be the nucleus of the future political order and the preservation of a unified structure under the banners of Islam. Our aspirations in regard to the spread of the concepts and principles around which to rally the middle, the east, the west, the north, and the south, all the sincere social and economic factions, and all the opinions pertaining to the nation and its religion, have also been realized.

In our march, we accept things. Our course is one of forgiveness of our brothers whose hands have been tied because of fear and excessive caution. We accept all those who help, as much as they can, in securing support for our reform plan. Those who cannot help may pray for us in absentia. We are in utmost need of this and we remind everyone of the principles of the call and reform on which they were nurtured and the banners under which they grew.

We say to every sincere and caring person whose valor, magnanimity, and piety have risen above all their fears and terrors, so that they rushed to support the right and their people: May God reward you immensely and may God bless your efforts.

Those who believe that God has chosen some people after the Prophet of God, may God bless his soul and grant him grace, and thus endowed them with immunity from tribulation are under an illusion and are mistaken. We ask God's forgiveness for saying so. The Prophet, may God bless his soul and grant him grace, and his companions suffered tribulations and were tortured and killed. The same has happened to the good reformers of the nation of Muhammad, may God bless his soul and grant him grace. That is the way things happen. Equip yourselves with piety and faith. May God grant us all patience, for "with every hardship comes a release, with every hardship comes a release" [Koranic verse]. God has told his slaves: "Think ye that ye will enter Paradise while there has not come unto you the like of (that which came) to those who passed away before you? Affliction and adversity befell them, they were shaken as with an earthquake, till the messenger [of Allah] and those who believed along with him said: When comes Allah's help? Now surely Allah's help is nigh."

We reassure our brothers that good tidings, God willing, are coming, to bring relief to the sympathizers' hearts and wipe away their sorrows, which we will leave until they [the tidings] come. God is with you and he will not overlook your actions.

[Signed] Abu Maryam al-'Amiri
Member of the executive bureau of the Reform Movement

Yemen

Yemen: Aden Governor's Son Allegedly Kidnapped by Socialist's Sons

MM1305144096 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 11 May 96 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Abd-al-Salam Tahir: "Aden Governor's Son Abducted; Negotiations Held To Secure His Release"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Aden — An armed group has abducted the son of Aden Governor Taha Ahmad Ghanim from a Sanaa street and taken him to Bani Zabyan in the Khawlan area, east of Sanaa. AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that negotiations were still continuing yesterday afternoon between the competent authorities and the kidnappers to secure the release of the Aden governor's son, whose name is Mu'ad. It had been agreed to hand him over yesterday evening.

Informed sources have said that the kidnappers are from the family of Ahmad 'Abbad al-Sharif, member of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee, who has been abroad since the summer of 1994. The reason for the abduction is their demand for the recovery of their house in Aden, from which — according to them — they were evicted.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT telephoned Governor Taha Ghanim, who is currently in Sanaa, to follow up the issue. He confirmed that his eldest son, Mu'ad, was abducted in Sanaa on Thursday [9 May] by Ahmad 'Abbas al-Sharif's sons. [passage omitted]

Yemen: Socialist Leader Denies Links to Kidnapping

NC1305162696 Paris AFP in English
1439 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, May 13 (AFP) — A Yemeni socialist leader living in Saudi Arabia denied accusations on Monday [13 May] he had masterminded the kidnapping of the son of the governor of the Yemeni province of Aden.

"I have nothing to do with the abduction of the Aden governor's son, and I am ready to go to court if it is established that I ordered the kidnapping," Ahmad 'Abbad al-Sharif, a Yemen Socialist Party central committee member, told AFP.

Colonel al-Sharif, a Yemeni interior ministry advisor, meanwhile, urged the Yemeni authorities to release members of his Khawlan tribe as well as his son Nayif, who have been arrested by the police.

Police said Sunday that the Yemeni authorities would ask Saudi Arabia to extradite al-Sharif in order to try

him on charges he ordered Khawlan tribesmen to kidnap the governor's son, Mu'adh Taha Ahmad Ghanim, last Thursday.

"My job at the interior ministry is to guarantee security in the country," al-Sharif said, adding the accusations against him were "without foundation." Al-Sharif has been living in the Saudi city of Jeddah since February.

Al-Sharif said he intended to return to the Yemeni capital Sanaa in the next few days, saying he had left Yemen earlier this year to make the pilgrimage to Mecca.

The YSP official is also accused of having "received" orders from 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, the vice president of the short-lived Yemen Democratic Republic who lives abroad and whose arrest Yemeni officials want.

The self-proclaimed republic was set up by secessionists in the southern city of Aden in May 1994, but collapsed after the south lost the war to northern forces.

The father of the 20-year-old hostage is a member of the General People's Congress of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

The kidnappers are demanding the authorities return a house in Aden which the YSP gave in 1986 to al-Sharif under the nationalization campaign conducted at the time in the former south Yemen.

A court has ordered that the home be returned to the original owner.

The YSP has also denied any involvement in the kidnapping of Mu'adh Ghanim, who is being held hostage in the Dhana region, around 80 kilometers (48 miles) southeast of Sanaa.

The kidnappers are demanding the release of the arrested tribesmen, a review of the court verdict on the house, and a pledge from the authorities not to prosecute them, mediators said.

Iraq: Al-Anbari, Butrus-Ghali Meet; Talks To Resume 13 May

*JN1305163996 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1615 GMT 13 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 13 May (INA)—The Iraqi and UN General Secretariat delegations will resume the meetings of the fourth round of dialogue on the issue of oil in return for food, medicine, and other basic needs late tonight, Baghdad time.

An INA correspondent in New York said that UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali met last night with Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, head of the Iraqi delegation, for the second time within the past days.

The UN secretary general met with the head of the Iraqi delegation last Friday [10 May]. Hans Korell, the secretary general's legal adviser, attended the meeting.

Iraq: Al-Anbari To Stay in New York; 'Glimmer of Hope' for Talks

*MM1405103996 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
14 May 96 pp 1, 6*

[Report by Raghidah Dirgham: "Butrus-Ghali Meets With Christopher; al-Anbari To Stay in New York"]

[FBIS Translated Text] New York — It has been decided to continue the oil-for-food negotiations between the Iraqi delegation and the UN General Secretariat delegation in the absence of UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali, who will return from Moscow on 17 May. Butrus-Ghali had extensive contacts over the weekend with the U.S. and Iraqi sides, including a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher yesterday morning and another meeting with U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright. He met twice with Iraqi chief delegate Ambassador 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari.

General Secretariat sources have said that "the difficulties are still there, and the secretary general is making extensive efforts in a bid to overcome these difficulties. He is hoping to move closer to an agreement by his return to New York at the end of next week."

Al-Anbari said that Baghdad has decided to keep the Iraqi delegation in New York and to continue the negotiations even in the secretary general's absence. He added: "I am happy with the General Secretariat's eagerness to secure an agreement. We will continue the negotiations patiently in the hope of achieving a breakthrough. What remains is very little."

The General Secretariat sources believe there is a "glimmer of hope" regarding the non-collapse of the fourth round of negotiations over the terms for Baghdad's sale of \$1 billion-worth of oil every three months for

six months to meet Iraqi civilians' urgent humanitarian needs in accordance with Resolution 986.

The sources said that matters are still "complicated," but "not as bad as the situation was" in the negotiations at the end of last week.

The atmosphere was critical last week as a result of the U.S. and British adherence to the amendments they introduced to the draft memorandum of understanding dated 10 April on the implementation of Resolution 986. Meanwhile the Iraqi side insisted that the draft memorandum represents what was agreed between the General Secretariat and Iraq, and that Baghdad cannot accept U.S. and British amendments.

Iraqi, Western, and General Secretariat sources agree that the wording of the memorandum of understanding is now more important than the fundamental questions mentioned in the memorandum. They said that all the parties concerned are allowing some "room" for understanding and for working to secure compromise solutions and formulas.

Western sources have said that the General Secretariat is now aware of "what is acceptable to us and what is not." The sources added that "there are extremely important matters on which we express our opinion." They went on to say that the U.S.-British amendments are not a stipulation submitted to the Iraqi side on a "take it or leave it" basis.

However, other Western sources have pointed out that the United States "wants to implement, not alter, Resolution 986. It all depends on Iraq's serious willingness to implement the resolution." The sources also pointed to a split within the Iraqi Government, saying that there are those who want to implement Resolution 986 and others who believe that that is not in Iraq's interests, while the final decision, which depends on President Saddam Husayn, is still unknown.

With regard to the negotiations over the implementation of Resolution 986, there has been optimism and pessimism, a move toward compromise solutions and a wide gap between stands, a hint at willingness to present "face-saving" formulas, and insistence that Washington is not prepared to give Saddam any room to interpret the implementation of Resolution 986 as a victory for him, especially in a U.S. election year.

Butrus-Ghali sought to prevent the negotiations' collapse in the hope that further negotiations will lead to the gaps being bridged. Informed sources have said that "it is now a matter of time" before an agreement is achieved.

The spokeswoman for the secretary general has said that Butrus-Ghali "is hoping to arrive at an agreement on the memorandum of understanding" by the time of his return from Moscow. She announced that he briefed Christopher on "developments in the talks on the oil-for-food formula."

It was decided to hold a session yesterday between the two negotiating delegations under Ambassador al-Anbari for the Iraqi side and Hans Corell, legal adviser, for the United Nations.

Iraq: Envoy Hopes U.S., Britain Will Not 'Interfere' in Talks

NC1405075196 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0514 GMT 14 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, head of the Iraqi delegation to the oil-for-food negotiations, has announced that he is about to sign an agreement to implement the relevant Security Council resolution. He noted that the current talks will be the last unless the United States and Britain interfere, as they did last month.

In remarks to AL-AHRAM published today al-Anbari praised the Egyptian position during the negotiations, describing it as outstanding and praiseworthy. He said that Egypt is always ready to help in completing the agreement.

Al-Anbari described Security Council Resolution 986, which allows Iraq to sell oil in exchange for food, medicines, and other basic necessities for the Iraqi people, as a hard and complicated resolution that contains numerous very difficult conditions. He explained that reports saying the resolution ends the Iraqi people's hardship are untrue, because half of the \$1 billion every three months will go to the reparation fund, the expenses of the UN special commission, and other parties, leaving only half for the Iraqi people.

The Iraqi official said Iraq and the United Nations have narrowed the gap between their positions, leaving only three or four specific points unresolved. He voiced hope that a suitable formula will be found so that the final form of the agreement can be announced.

Iraq: Justice Minister on Iran Ties, Water 'Crisis' With Turkey, Syria

NC1405060296 Cairo MENA in English
2102 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, 13 May (MENA)—Iraqi Minister of Justice Shabib al-Maliki who doubles as head of the Iraqi delegation to the meeting of the Executive Office of the Arab ministers of justice said

here today that Iraq is keen on dealing with the issue of the missing Kuwaitis adding that a UN committee is currently tackling the issue.

Al-Maliki labelled the Iraqi-Iranian relations as negative and accused Iran of distorting the image of Iraq as well as interfering in Iraq's internal affairs.

Commenting on the water crisis between Iraq and Syria on the one hand and Turkey on the other, the Iraqi minister said that Iran is making contacts in this respect with the Turks and the Syrians.

Commenting on the Turkish-Israeli military cooperation, the Iraqi minister said that Baghdad is against such cooperation and it is also against the policy of axes in the region.

Iraq: Regime Troops Reportedly Attack Marshland Area

NC1305162096 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi
Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1440 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In a new criminal act by the tyrant Saddam's regime against the inhabitants and the environment of the marshland in southern Iraq, several Iraqi armored and infantry brigades launched, at 0700 [0400 GMT] on 10 May, a wide-scale offensive along four axes against vast areas of the marshland of al-Basrah Governorate.

According to our sources that reported the news from there, the four axes of the offensive are: (Hawr Sulayn), the (al-Miqta') area, Dar Mardan, and the (Umm al-Suwayh) region. The same sources added that the regime's troops, using all kinds of large-caliber weapons, opened fire on civilians in these regions. They burned homes, plantations, cattle, and vast areas of sugarcane and papyrus.

According to our sources, a number of defenseless civilians fell victim. A heavy artillery shell landed on a school in the (al-Miqta') area, causing as-yet-unspecified casualties. Our sources added that the tribesmen in the regions targeted by the aggression confronted the offensive. Ferocious battles ensued, with the tribesmen and Islamic resistance fighters on one side and the Saddam regime's troops on the other. As a result, the regime's troops were repulsed after sustaining heavy casualties. The tribesmen and Islamic resistance fighters seized a number of weapons and equipment, including mortars, RPG's, medium machine guns, and a number of armored and other vehicles. The sources added that the regime is now reorganizing its defeated troops in preparation for further attacks against the region. [passage omitted]

Iraq: Islamic Opposition Attacks Checkpoint in South, Kills 2

JN1305151996 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] As part of the martyrdom operations aimed at removing the manifestations of repression and terrorism and in order to attain freedom, a group of the Islamic revolution mujahidin in Iraq attacked a major checkpoint in the al-Shatrah district in the al-Nasiriyah governorate on 1 May. The sources said that the heroic attack on the checkpoint, which was set up by the tyrant's security directorate in al-Shatrah, resulted in the killing of two of the checkpoint's men and the injury of others.

The mujahidin's statement stresses that this attack is part of an overall operation in which some operations have already taken place. Future operations will take place in the next few days in the very home of the disintegrating regime.

Officials in the al-Shatrah district are very fearful and full of anxiety after the killing of murderer (Ifsayyih Ajar Shanfar), who was in charge of the 'Aflaqites party in the district and one of the tyrant's strong arms in the south.

**Israel: Baraq on 'Diplomatic War' Against Iran,
Ties to Jordan**

TA1305124696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1200 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq said that the closure on Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip might be tightened prior to the elections.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that in a briefing to the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Baraq disclosed that during his meeting last week with Secretary of State Warren Christopher it was decided that the United States and Israel would jointly appeal to European countries to reconsider their ties to Iran, now that it has become clear that Iran is the orchestrator of international terrorism. Both countries have also decided to launch a public relations and diplomatic war against Iran.

Ehud Baraq expressed the assessment that the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in Hebron would take place after the elections. As for the reports of difficulties in Israel's relations with Jordan, Foreign Minister Baraq said that Amman was disappointed with the slow rate at which some of the joint projects were being implemented, as well as with the scope of U.S. and European aid to Jordan. These two issues were casting a slight pall on our relations with Jordan, Baraq said.

**Israel: 4 Israelis Wounded in West Bank
'Terrorist' Attack**

TA1305142796 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1400 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Four Israelis were wounded by shots fired from a passing car in a terrorist attack at Yosh junction near Bet El. One of the Israelis sustained head injuries and is in serious condition. The others were lightly wounded. The casualties were evacuated to Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. This was reported by our correspondents Aviv Bushinsky and 'Ofra Nehmad.

As for the circumstances of the incident, our correspondent Gil Litman notes that shots were first fired from a passing Subaru at a bus belonging to the DCO [District Liaison and Coordination Office], but none of the bullets penetrated the vehicle. The terrorists drove on and fired at a group of Israelis standing at the hitchhikers station at the entrance to Bet El. A manhunt is now under way after the terrorists' car which was seen fleeing in the direction of al-Jalazun refugee camp.

**Israel: Student Dies of Wounds From Attack;
Manhunt Continues**

TA1305164496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1600 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] One of the Israelis wounded in the terrorist attack near Bet El today has died at Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital. The man was wounded in the head.

During the attack, which took place this afternoon, terrorists fired shots at yeshiva students in Bet El and at Civil Administration employees. Two yeshiva students were shot and wounded while waiting at a hitchhikers station at the entrance to Bet El. One man was mortally wounded while the other sustained serious injuries. The terrorists also fired at a bus carrying Civilian Administration employees. The bus braked suddenly, lightly injuring two women. The passengers were not hurt by the gunshots because they were traveling in an armored bus.

Our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad reports that the four casualties were taken to Jerusalem's Hadassah Medical Center. The two lightly injured women were taken to Hadassah-Mount Scopus Hospital. One of the women, who is nine months pregnant, was taken to the maternity ward. The yeshiva student who was seriously wounded is being treated at the trauma unit at Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital.

Major General 'Uzi Dayan, the commander of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Central Command, arrived at the scene a short while ago and carried out an initial debriefing. Maj. Gen. Dayan informed our correspondent Gil Litman that witnesses from Bet El had told him that IDF soldiers who were standing nearby began pursuing the terrorists within a short time. Maj. Gen. Dayan noted that the terrorists had been driving a Mitsubishi car, which was apparently stolen. The car overturned several hundred meters north of the scene of the attack, and the terrorists fled on foot. Two terrorists are believed to be responsible for the attack, and the IDF is now conducting a manhunt after them. The authorities are examining the possibility that the terrorists may have hijacked a commercial van bearing license plates from the territories, which happened to be at the scene, and fled northwards with its passengers. Maj. Gen. Dayan said that the IDF has updated the Palestinian Authority.

Israel: Likud, Labor React to Bet El Attack

TA1305184796 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1800 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Likud reacted to this afternoon's terrorist attack near Bet El by saying that it

constitutes additional proof of Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' failure in placing his trust in Yasir 'Arafat. The Likud asserted that the terrorists came out of the autonomous areas and fled back into them. Right-wing activists demonstrated this evening near the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem.

Coalition Chairman Ra'anana Kohn said that the terrorist attacks were not directed against any particular political party. Therefore, the opposition's cynical exploitation of today's incident in an attempt to attack the government should be viewed with some astonishment.

Knesset Member Kohn said that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has full freedom of action in its war against terrorism. The above reactions were reported by our correspondent Yo'el Nir.

Israel: Peres—Bet El Attack Will Not Affect Hebron Redeployment

TA1305191996 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1900 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In reaction to today's terrorist attack near Bet El, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said that Israel had no intention of cowering or surrendering to terrorism. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] would do everything to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in the future, but today's attack would not change Israel's preparations for redeployment in Hebron.

Shim'on Peres added that the terrorist organizations are continuing their efforts to stop the peace process. Many terrorist attacks have been thwarted, but it is not always possible to prevent all of them. Today's attack, the prime minister stressed, occurred inside an area under Israel's control, and all efforts are being made to capture the murderers.

The prime minister was speaking during a tour of the Agritech exhibition at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds, and his remarks were reported by our correspondent Shim'on Vilna'i.

Israel: Peres '100-Day Team' To Deal With Settlers if Evacuated

TA1405101496 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
14 May 96 pp A1, A2

[Report by Yerah Tal]

[FBIS Translated Text] The "100-Day Team" led by Yosi Beilin and set up by the prime minister to draft the policies of the next Peres government has formulated a plan on how to deal with the settlers in the event a decision is made to evacuate them as part of a permanent arrangement in Judaea and Samaria. The team has also been discussing a possible withdrawal from the Golan

Heights. The team has raised with the prime minister its initial ideas on the issue, which has been defined as top secret. A senior member confirmed that the team has been discussing the possible evacuation of settlers to settlement blocs or to areas inside the Green Line, depending on their choice, but — although the Finance Ministry has done some calculations on the issue — no debate has yet been held on compensation arrangements. These studies, which refer particularly to the Golan Heights, have already been shown to the Americans.

Labor promised in its platform that most settlers would remain under Israeli sovereignty in the permanent arrangement.

The ideas raised by the team deal with ways to cope with the violence that a decision on an evacuation and its implementation might trigger. Professor Ehud Sprinzak, an expert on political violence, has been put in charge of this issue.

The team includes economists Nimrod Novick and Amnon Neubach (who were members of Peres' "100-Day Team" in 1984), as well as Alon Li'el, director of the National Planning Authority. The team has been examining several scenarios for a permanent arrangement, including the establishment of a Palestinian state, and assessing the repercussions such a move would have on Israel as opposed to the establishment of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation.

Nevertheless, the focus of the team's work is not on politics but on economic, social, and educational issues. The team has been formulating new national priorities, and one member said that revolutionary ideas are being formulated in the economic sphere, such as the establishment of a joint free trade zone between Israel and its neighbors.

Another issue examined by the team is the impact of the government reforms that will go into effect upon the implementation of the law on direct elections for the premiership. The team has worked out a plan concerning the reduction of government ministries to 18, as required by law. It proposes merging the Tourism Ministry with the Transportation Ministry or the Industry and Trade Ministry, and abolishing the Communication, Science, and the Arts Ministry and the Energy Ministry. A private authority would be in charge of communications, while a new infrastructure and technology ministry would be set up to deal with energy, infrastructure, science, and development.

This plan depends on the coalition that will emerge after the elections. A possible amendment of the law in order to retain the current number of cabinet portfolios (22) to be distributed to coalition partners without harming

Labor's representation is not out of the question. Conversely, the team discussed the possibility of changing the current ratio of three Knesset seats per cabinet portfolio to four.

The team has been working on the establishment of the national security council required by this law. According to one idea, if the prime minister forgoes the defense portfolio, some issues currently handled by the Defense Ministry would be transferred to the Prime Minister's Office and the council would help out in dealing with them. In any event, Peres intends to remain in charge of the political process. The council will apparently consist of political figures close to the prime minister rather than of government officials.

Another idea the team presented to Peres is to institute compulsory national service for all those who are currently exempt from service in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], including Arabs. National service would be recognized as military service for the purpose of rights and privileges currently awarded to Israelis who have served in the IDF. The team further proposes setting up an independent authority to deal with this national service which would direct recruits to work in the community, hospitals, and schools.

According to the proposal submitted by the team to the prime minister, compulsory education would start at the age of four instead of grade one, while students would be able to graduate from high school by the age of 16 instead of 18, and whoever wanted to could complete a full or partial university degree before enlisting in the army.

Beilin refused to provide any details about the team's work. "The material is meant for the prime minister, and the moment things are leaked prematurely the team's work becomes meaningless," Beilin said. He agreed to say only that the committee presented the prime minister with all the material dealing with reorganization of the Prime Minister's Office, including the establishment of a national security council. The proposal to move the Treasury's budget department to the Prime Minister's Office was rejected by Peres.

Israel: Peres Discloses Dozens of Terror Attacks Foiled

TA1405110796 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0905 GMT 14 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said the security branches have recently prevented several terrorist attacks, but details about them have not yet been publicized. Peres said there is now clear-cut evidence that outside elements are trying to derail the Israeli elections and harm the peace process. Our

correspondent Shula Schmerling sums up the prime minister's remarks in Yoqne'am this morning:

[Schmerling] The prime minister will be touring Yoqne'am the whole day today. He made his most significant remarks at the beginning of the reception held for him this morning by the local council. The prime minister said: There is clear-cut evidence today that outside elements are trying to derail the entire election process and thus harm the peace process. He based his remarks on, among other things, a meeting he held earlier this morning with Norwegian Foreign Minister Bjorn Godal in which the latter admitted that under the guise of educational-cultural activities Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Hizballah, and other radical Islamic organizations have been using every possible means to sabotage the elections and the entire peace process. Incidentally, he recounted that he demanded from the Norwegian minister to bring pressure to bear on all European countries to abstain from giving funds or holding relations with Iran to curtail this process. Peres said the Norwegian minister agreed with him.

In the wake of yesterday's terrorist attack in Bet El, the prime minister vowed that any attempted security attack will meet with a most severe response. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the security forces will respond with utmost severity, he said. He categorically rejected the allegations of settlers, saying that despite its different priorities the Israeli Government will not abandon any settlers or harm their rights. Peres announced that the next government, if led by him, would not build settlements. At the same time, it will not abandon any settler or any of his rights.

The prime minister indirectly criticized the media, which, in his opinion, do not provide enough coverage when a terrorist attack is thwarted but comes out with banner headlines when there is a terrorist attack, even if it is insignificant or does not result in any serious casualties. It was at this point that Peres disclosed that dozens of terrorist attacks have been successfully thwarted, some of which have not even been publicized.

[At 1005 GMT Schmerling adds: "The prime minister said yesterday's attack in Bet El and the attack earlier this week in south Lebanon was interference by Hamas and Hizballah in Israel's election campaign. However, he said, we do not plan to give in to them. This is obvious interference by the fundamentalists and the terrorists in a bid to sway public opinion with bombs and katyushas. The prime minister said he was sure the Israeli public was mature enough not to be scared.

[Turning to the issue of Lebanon, he said he regards the incident two days ago as a violation of the spirit of the understandings reached after Operation Grapes

of Wrath and noted that he expects all the incumbent parties to bring about calm and stability to this troubled area."]

Israel: Norwegian Foreign Minister, Baraq Meet on Hebron Observers

TA1305184496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1800 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Norwegian Foreign Minister Bjorn Godal said tonight after meeting Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq that 30 Norwegian observers would be stationed in Hebron by tomorrow. With time, their number would grow to approximately 200. Minister Godal told our correspondent Dan Eshel that the observers would be able to help in all issues related to the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment and would strive to improve the atmosphere in the area.

Foreign Minister Baraq also stressed the observers' role during the transition period.

Israel: Jordanian 'Tourist' Planned To Carry Out Suicide Operation

TA1305170396 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1
Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 May 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Shin Bet has disclosed that in cooperation with the Israeli Police it arrested

Salim Muhammad 'Abd, a Palestinian holding Jordanian citizenship who recently tried to carry out a suicide operation in Israel. Our police affairs correspondent Kayid Zahir adds that the interrogation with him proved that he stayed recently in Syria, that he was in contact with Islamic Jihad officials there, that he received training, and that he entered Israel as a tourist. The Shin Bet, however, arrested him before he was able to carry out the operation.

Israel: Soldiers Capture 'Terrorist' in Sharon; No Casualties

TA1405103596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1000 GMT 14 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A terrorist attack has been foiled in the Sharon district. Near al-Tayyibah, a car with Israeli license plates broke through an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] roadblock and its driver fired shots at a jeep carrying soldiers. There were no casualties. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the shooter was captured. None of the soldiers at the roadblock were hurt.

The security forces arrested five Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in the Ramallah area. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the five were arrested within the framework of routine activity against Hamas.

Jordan: Infiltrators From Syria Arrested; Arms, Explosives Seized

MM1405110696 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 May 96 pp 1, 4

[Report by Mufid 'Awwad and Muhammad al-Da'mah: "Jordan Arrests Infiltrators From Syria Carrying Explosives"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman — An authoritative Jordanian source confirmed yesterday that Jordanian authorities had arrested a group of infiltrators who crossed the Syrian-Jordanian border, and that quantities of light weapons and explosives they had with them were confiscated. The source told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the infiltrators belong to Palestinian organizations based in Syria.

Jordanian political circles have said that arms smuggling operations across the Jordanian border with Syria have increased recently, and that numerous attempts have been foiled. The aim is to deliver arms to a number of Jordanian opposition groups and rejectionist organizations in Jordan.

The circles also said: "Syria considers Jordan a source of threat to it in view of the presence of U.S. forces and warplanes in Jordan, especially in north and east Jordan." The circles revealed U.S. concern over any tension in relations between Jordan and Syria.

The authoritative ministerial source said that "the infiltrators had intended to carry out terrorist operations inside Jordan against Israeli tourists and also to smuggle arms into the occupied Palestinian areas for suicide operations against Israeli military targets."

The source does not rule out that the infiltrating groups are supported by both Syria and Iran.

The source said that "forces from the Jordanian Army recently arrested an armed group in the al-Baqurah area, which Jordan recovered under the peace treaty with Israel." The source said that this group intended to carry out armed operations against the Israeli farmers who enter this area under the treaty. [passage omitted]

Jordan: Muslim Brotherhood Criticizes Abu-Marzuq Extradition Ruling

JN1405105196 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 14-20 May 96 p 16

[FBIS Translated Text] The Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan strongly criticized a ruling by a U.S. judge in which he agrees to an Israeli request that Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq be extradited. Abu-Marzuq is the head of the Political Bureau of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance]

Movement. The Muslim Brotherhood said Abu-Marzuq is a hero who deserves credit and fair treatment.

These remarks came in a statement issued on 12 May by the Information Office of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan.

The following is the text of the statement:

The Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan received with anger and shock the news about a U.S. decision to extradite Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the Political Bureau of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, to the Israeli Government. The U.S. decision was issued at a time when the blood of the Qana victims had not yet dried, amid suspicious international silence about the victims and blatant U.S. bias toward the state of criminality and usurpation. It would have been better for the U.S. Administration to treat Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq the same way it treated other freedom fighters, instead of accommodating the criminal whims of the Israelis.

The biased and unfair U.S. attitude toward the causes of the Islamic world in general, and Dr. Abu-Marzuq's case in particular, will widen the gap between the United States and the sons of the Islamic world, who seek freedom and progress. Should the extradition take place, God forbid, it would have very serious and complicated consequences for which the U.S. Administration alone would be responsible.

Dr. Abu-Marzuq's extradition may count as an election card in favor of Peres according to the Israeli agenda being implemented by the U.S. Administration. However, the U.S. Administration should know that the nation of Islam has another agenda, not restricted by time or space, which it can implement at the appropriate time. History bears witness to this.

Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq will continue to be regarded by the sons of his nation and people as a hero who devoted his life to noble objectives. Therefore, he deserves credit and fair treatment. The state of criminality and usurpation has not stopped — not even for a single day — shedding the blood of unarmed civilians, including children and women. This state has a date with the victims to exact just retribution. And We wished to be gracious to those who were being depressed in the land, to make them leaders in faith and make them heirs, to establish a firm place for them in the land, and to show Pharaoh, Haman, and their hosts what they were dreading from them. [Koranic verse]

[Signed] The Muslim Brotherhood
The Information Office - Jordan

Lebanon: Buwayz on April Understanding, Resistance

NC1305134096 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic
6 May 96 p 3

[Interview with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by George Bkasini and George 'Alam; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [AL-SAFIR] How do you read the April "Understanding"?

[Buwayz] First, the April Understanding is an understanding, not an agreement; it does not include any document or signatures by all the parties. This was not done deliberately [sentence as published]. We refused to let this document be formally regarded as an alternative to any possible agreement or any resolution or mechanism. By this I mean Resolution 425 and the peace process. This is the understanding.

As for the content, this understanding does not replace the political process, which remains the core of the solution. It is an understanding that does not claim to replace Resolution 425 or the peace process, which is based on the inevitability of the Israeli withdrawal. This understanding concerns managing and containing the security situation until a radical and fundamental peace is reached. Hence, this understanding calls for forming a mechanism that will, first, receive complaints when action takes place outside the understanding and then express a view, even pinpointing responsibility if it considers a party's actions violate the understanding. This is why I believe this understanding is a viable and reasonable framework for overcoming this particular stage, by containing the scope of operations and basically not allowing military operations to go beyond the military framework to the civilian one.

This understanding aims to protect civilians from the occupation forces' reaction to resistance operations. It bans the firing of shells or rockets at the areas beyond the Lebanese-Israeli border and so protects the civilians there. It prevents Israel from bombarding, firing on, or even harassing Lebanese civilians, particularly outside the occupied area in the border strip. Of course I realize that such an understanding cannot foretell or tackle everything that might happen; many things can happen. It also cannot anticipate events, such as when an operation takes place on the line separating the border strip from the free areas. It cannot demarcate topographic borders or lay down a complete concept of the right to pursue or retaliate.

Thus we regard Resolution 425 more than ever as the sole mechanism for guaranteeing real security and stability on both sides of the border. What has happened

so far is a sort of partial and temporary compensation while waiting for the solution. The political framework of this understanding will regulate the foregoing points during the current stage.

[AL-SAFIR] Do you expect Israel to stay committed to this understanding?

[Buwayz] I believe this understanding will continue to be complied with, at least until the Israeli elections are over. Then, if the intentions are peaceful or if the situation moves toward peace, this understanding would have served, as they say, its "military purposes" and would pave the way for a radical solution. But if the peace process is undermined by the Israeli elections and their winner, then I do not believe this understanding will escape the consequences of such a negative development.

Thus, any legal understanding is the outcome of the conditions that create it. It can tolerate minor changes in these conditions but it cannot tolerate a radical change in the atmosphere that created it.

[AL-SAFIR] The most important point distinguishing the April Understanding from the July Understanding is the involvement of the government in the first. This places responsibilities on the government. Is it ready to shoulder these responsibilities?

[Buwayz] What distinguishes the form of this understanding from the July Understanding is that it is written. The July Understanding was a vague oral understanding.

The second point that distinguishes it is that it is the Lebanese government that is responsible for the rights of the resistance. The resistance does have rights. In other words: The Lebanese government is a basic party in this understanding, while it was absent from the previous understanding. This means that there is a tendency to return to some statements I made a few years ago to the effect that, in principle, the resistance is the property of the people, represented by their government. No one can be anything more than a part of this right, which he practices and applies in accordance with the interests of the state and the homeland. Nobody can control this resistance and use it for his own private purposes. Therefore, this time around, the state is the basic party. There is no other, on the Lebanese side. This entrenches its role and places responsibilities on it.

The third difference is that this understanding is much more serious than the previous one because it involves directly other countries — such as the United States and France — which are not directly involved in the conflict. These are superpowers with great influence and ability.

As a final point, this understanding presumes a permanent, continuous, and progressive mechanism. In other words, it will enjoy certain mechanisms that will enable it to constantly monitor the situation on the ground and allow it to define responsibilities and perhaps take protective measures the objective of which would be to avert clashes. At the very least, it will be able to receive complaints and freeze any emotional reaction while deciding who is responsible.

This understanding notes, for the first time, that there is an indirect international and Israeli responsibility for the destruction and ruin that took place in Lebanon. A consultative committee is supposed to be established the duty of which is to support state efforts to reconstruct, rehabilitate, and rebuild what was destroyed. In addition, this time around, this understanding protects not only the populated areas but also civilian installations. It talks about avoiding agricultural, electrical, and other areas. In one of its paragraphs, it stresses that it is not an alternative to any radical, basic, or political solution to the crisis. It also gives Lebanon the right to resist so long as its territory is still under occupation.

[AL-SAFIR] Does this understanding lead to a new formula for relations between the state and the resistance?

[Buwayz] I think the new formula between the state and the resistance is this formula in particular. It imposes itself on the Lebanese state, as it does on other countries. We have always maintained that to resist is the right of the Lebanese people represented by their state. Whoever wants to practice this right will do so under the banner and umbrella of the state. Thus, he cannot digress from this framework.

[AL-SAFIR] You were among those who called for establishing what was termed 'harmony' between the state and the resistance?

[Buwayz] Unfortunately, this is a kind of harmony, even if it comes after these circumstances or through this mechanism.

[AL-SAFIR] In other words, a clash between the state and the resistance is not possible?

[Buwayz] Of course not. I think Hizballah, being a party in the resistance, has agreed to this understanding in one form or another. It has also been notified of this understanding. I think it will adhere to the contents of this understanding, particularly since the understanding entrenches the right of resistance. However, this will happen within a framework that protects the citizens — something that is not rejected by Hizballah in essence. Proceeding from this, I am confident that logic and reason will impose themselves on any action by the

party to avoid any possible clash between it and the state. [passage omitted]

[AL-SAFIR] Do you think the United States does not want France to play a role through this committee, and hence in the settlement process?

[Buwayz] The United States has of course become used to leading or managing the peace negotiations. Maybe it was not ready to accept a role by another country. This is the reason behind what is being said about the U.S. and French positions. But I think the United States has understood that France's role is an auxiliary one [dawr musa'id] and will not be negative. On the contrary, the help the United States might need in its work could be provided by France in one way or another, because of the France's knowledge of the region's peoples and issues, its long history in the region, and its credibility with a number of parties in the region. Thus, I think the so-called U.S.-French conflict or clash is not true. There might be a race to serve the same purpose — and this is welcome, since it does not harm anyone.

[AL-SAFIR] Will the monitoring committee's role be confined to monitoring and stopping any firing or will it go beyond that, to a wider context connected to the settlement negotiations?

[Buwayz] Basically, this understanding's mechanism is for receiving complaints and pinpointing which party is responsible, on the basis of these complaints and any information it might have gathered. Though this was not mentioned at the time, it can also forestall certain actions in the field, through preventive consultations to avoid what might happen. This committee's work is confined to these two objectives. That is: to monitoring the situation and to receiving complaints, and thus pinpointing the party responsible. This does not conflict with any precautionary steps it could take — even if not stipulated in this understanding — in order to avoid clashes that violate it. Thus, the committee is not qualified to be an alternative to the peace process or to Resolution 425. It is not programmed to be a basis for these two cases — which, unfortunately, are not being raised to this day. [passage omitted]

[AL-SAFIR] Do you have any sense of whether the U.S. President has any desire to recall Resolution 425 — or are there guarantees, a commitment, or a desire to help implement this resolution?

[Buwayz] The United States proposed this resolution to the Security Council in the past. It abstained from underlining it at one stage because it probably believed the resolution did not deal with peace between Lebanon and Israel but only with a withdrawal and a state of security. But not with peace. So as to be clear,

the United States refused at one stage to resubmit this resolution. This did not mean a rejection of its contents. This was because the United States believed that a resubmission of this resolution apart from the peace process could mean withdrawal without peace — hence its desire to link the withdrawal to the peace process. The United States believed that the talk about continuing the negotiations meant including the withdrawal in them, but without going into details or calling the resolution by its name. There is now a partial change. Namely: The United States has realized that Lebanon's assertion in the past that implementation of this resolution is a first stage does serve the peace process and create the right atmosphere for resuming it, and that suspending it until the whole process is completed opens security gaps that could undermine and sabotage the peace process. President Clinton's talk could have taken into account the fact that if the peace process has stalled, somewhat, for some reason, then it is better to start implementing this resolution in a way that closes the gaps until the complete, comprehensive settlement is reached.

[AL-SAFIR] Don't you believe that what happened in the past two weeks was a punishment for Lebanon's boycotting the Sharm al-Shaykh summit? And what has happened to Sharm al-Shaykh?

[Buwayz] Perhaps Sharm al-Shaykh was part of what happened, but not all of it. I said very frankly at the beginning of these events, and I am sincere in my diagnosis, that what happened was closely related to the Israeli elections. Peres was pushed by some—the military, fanatics, the Likud, and some people around him—to enter into this adventure, against the backdrop of his perceived weakness complex. Being one of the few civilian leaders in Israel; that is, one who has not come from the ranks of the military establishment, Peres has a complex some people have managed to entrench in him; namely, that being a civilian he may not be aware of Israel's security and military needs and that since he is a politician and a diplomat only he does not realize the military and security "requirements." This complex has played a major role in getting him involved in this adventure, not to mention the pressure put on him in this regard. In addition, the election period made Peres believe that with such an adventure in Lebanon he could score a victory that may serve his reelection and that may pay off at the popular level inside Israel. These two elements, I believe, played the main role. Add to this what Peres believed was cover from Sharm al-Shaykh; that is, his belief that Sharm al-Shaykh gave him a chance or made room for combating "terrorism" and, under this category, combating the Lebanese resistance too.

However, I believe that Israel emerged from this understanding without any gains, considering the resources it used, and almost got itself into a quagmire, were it not for the U.S. initiative that sought to save Peres from this quagmire. After the first few days of fighting, and after having realized his failure to strike at the resistance's structure or change the political equation, Peres had no choice but either to stop or find a way out by attempting to expand the border belt up to the al-Litani River. This last presumption would have obliged him to deploy between 5,000 to 7,000 Israeli soldiers to administer this new zone, which the South Lebanese Army would not have been able to run alone. This would have made the Israeli army the victim of resistance operations similar to those of 1982. This would have meant a bigger quagmire for Peres. The fighting stopped with the understanding. Naturally, Israel will try to use it or depict it in a way that suggests it scored a victory, while in fact it is nothing more than the 1993 understanding, but with a mechanism. Thus, I believe that despite its 16,000 shells, 1,300 flights, the \$200 millions in cost, which is now the subject of a dispute between the Ministries of Finance and Defense, and the distortion of its international image because of the Qana, al-Nabatiyah, and other massacres, Israel did not make any gains proportionate to this effort.

[AL-SAFIR] If so, could we say that the Sharm al-Shaykh notion is over or has collapsed?

[Buwayz] I do not think so. Unfortunately, Sharm al-Shaykh is broader than the Israeli operation, which could be part of it. However, this does not mean that the Sharm al-Shaykh resolutions are not on the table at this moment for the agencies of the participating countries, or some of them, to discuss and lay the rules for what it calls combating terrorism. [passage omitted]

Lebanon: Al-Hariri Meets EU Ministers, Requests Financial Aid

NC1305165396 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1530 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri stated that the events that took place in Lebanon ripened the peace process, which is now part of the political reality in the region and the world. He noted that events which occurred in the past few years in Lebanon had a deep influence on the Lebanese people. As a result, all the Lebanese are now fully convinced that their national unity and coexistence under a strong and capable state constitutes their sole guarantee for security and stability, he added.

Prime Minister al-Hariri reiterated that the recent Israeli aggressions against Lebanon made it clear to everyone

that the solution must be a political and economic one, not a military one, and that the use of force will not lead to results. He added: The April Understanding came to emphasize that the solution is a political solution, through the peace process, and an economic solution, through the establishment of the Advisory Group.

Speaking at a meeting with EU foreign ministers at 1300 today at the EU's headquarters in Brussels, Prime Minister al-Hariri stressed that Lebanon is deeply committed to the peace process. He added: We have a genuine interest in achieving a just, comprehensive, and durable peace in the Middle East. We believe that this peace cannot be attained unless Israel withdraws from the occupied Lebanese and Syrian territories. He emphasized that when Lebanon regains its sovereignty over all its occupied territories, it will take charge of security in these areas.

Prime Minister al-Hariri noted that the government's development and reconstruction program requires \$15 billion in the coming years. He listed the sources of revenue that the Lebanese Government will rely on to finance this program, including the participation of the private sector, bilateral agreements with multilateral institutions, and world financial markets. He noted that EU member states, as well as Arab countries, contributed to backing Lebanon's efforts in this regard. He pointed out that consolidating security, economic, and social stability in Lebanon requires financial assistance in the form of grants and loans with easy terms, to the tune of \$1 billion per year in the coming years. The money will go to the infrastructure sector, social services, public services, the environment, productive sectors, and the rehabilitation of government offices and public institutions, he added. [passage omitted]

Lebanon: Russia's Viktor Posuvalyuk Arrives in Beirut

*NC1305120696 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1030 GMT 13 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has held talks at the Bustrus Palace with Russian Assistant Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk, who arrived in Beirut this morning. They discussed the situation in Lebanon after the April Understanding and the possibility of Russia participating in the Consultation Commission on the reconstruction of Lebanon.

Lebanon: Russian Official Meets Buwayz, Comments

*NC1305121496 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1115 GMT 13 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Assistant Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk has stated that the monitoring committee must be technical in nature. It must not be given any political coloring that would be a substitute for the structures and institutions set up on the basis of the Madrid negotiating process, he added.

Speaking after meeting Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, Posuvalyuk added that his country will take part in the advisory committee for the reconstruction of Lebanon. He added: I informed Buwayz of our political views on the functions and powers of this committee, the work of which is yet to be defined. Posuvalyuk noted that yesterday's military escalation will complicate the discussion at tomorrow's Washington meeting.

Posuvalyuk noted that he is visiting Lebanon to reaffirm Russia's eagerness to consolidate its ties with Lebanon and play a political role in the region and get acquainted with the ongoing developments and consult with officials. He noted that recent events in the region prove there is no room for unilateral action or selfishness in Middle East policy.

Lebanon: Israeli Helicopter, Artillery Pound Southern Area

*NC1305155396 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1530 GMT 13 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] An Israeli helicopter this afternoon fired an air-to-surface missile at al-Jabal al-Rafi'. In the meantime, the Israeli artillery was pounding the same area as well as the woods of Sujud, al-Rayhan, and al-'Ayshiyah.

Lebanon: IAF Helicopters Raid 'Terrorist' Targets Near Sujud

*TA1305170696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1600 GMT 13 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel Air Force [IAF] helicopters today attacked terrorist targets in the Sujud area in the eastern sector of south Lebanon's security zone. An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman said that the pilots reported accurate hits.

Lebanon: Israeli Plane Reconnoiters Western Sector
NC1405085996 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
0800 GMT 14 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An Israeli reconnaissance plane overflew the western sector at a very low altitude at 0900 [0600 GMT] today.

Lebanon: Israelis Shell South; Planes Reconnoiter Beirut
NC1405093596 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0815 GMT 14 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The hills of Iqlim al-Tuffah, especially al-Jabal al-Rafi', Jabal al-Luwayzah, and Jabal al-Rayhan, were subjected to Israeli artillery shelling this morning. Reports from the south say a Resistance group ambushed an Israeli patrol in the Tallusah area. Clashes ensued leaving a Resistance fighter dead.

Israeli warplanes reconnoitered Lebanese airspace, breaking the sound barrier over Beirut at 1055 [0755 GMT].

Lebanon: 'Resistance' Attacks Foot Patrol; Shelling Reported
NC1405110996 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1030 GMT 14 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel has continued to escalate its aggressive stance in the south. Al-Jabal al-Akhdar, al-Jabal al-Rafi', Tallat Mlita, the outskirts of al-Luwayzah, and the area around the Sujud post in Iqlim

al-Tuffah have since this morning been coming under intermittent Israeli artillery shelling, which went on until 1100 [0800 GMT] this morning. The source of the shelling was the occupation post's artillery in al-Zaffatah, inside the occupied strip. Tension prevails over the contact lines along the occupied strip after the recent Israeli attacks on the southern towns and villages. During the night, Israeli artillery targeted the hills and heights of Iqlim al-Tuffah with scores of artillery. The shelling continued until the early morning hours, while warplanes overflew the area.

In response to these attacks, a group of Islamic Resistance men ambushed a hostile foot patrol in the Tallusah area, inside the occupied strip. Clashes involving machine guns and rockets occurred between the two sides. A number of people in the patrol were killed and others wounded, while a resistance fighter was seriously wounded. In addition, the Islamic Resistance announced that one of its groups attacked an Israeli Merkava tank in the Sujud post, which was shelling the defenseless areas, and hit it directly. The post was also targeted by rockets and machine-gun fire.

Lebanon: 'Terrorist' Killed in Clash With IDF
TA1405111596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1100 GMT 14 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A terrorist was killed in south Lebanon in a clash with an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit. Our troops did not sustain any casualties. Our correspondent Ilan Ro'e reports that the clash occurred in the central sector of south Lebanon.

Syria: Al-Asad Receives PRC Vice Premier, Delegation

JN1305172896 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received PRC Vice Premier Wu Bangguo and his delegation at Latakia Palace today. Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and the Chinese ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

Bangguo conveyed the greetings of PRC President Jiang Zemin to the president, who asked him to convey his greetings and best wishes to President Zemin and the Chinese people. Moreover, Bangguo extended an invitation to the president from Chinese President Zemin to visit the PRC. The president accepted the invitation and promised to respond to it at an appropriate time.

Bangguo expressed his satisfaction with the talks he held with Syrian officials and their outcome, which he hoped will have a positive reflection on the development of bilateral relations and cooperation.

Talks dealt with the situation and developments in the region and in East and West Asia. Bangguo expressed China's appreciation of Syria's stands and its role in the region. He also expressed his country's support for Syria's efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace that restores its territories and rights. The two sides expressed their interest in furthering their bilateral relations.

Syria: Ba'th Official Confers With PRC Vice Premier, Delegation

JN1305203096 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Comrade Dr. Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP], this evening received PRC Vice Premier Comrade Wu Bangguo and his delegation. The meeting was attended by the Chinese ambassador in Damascus. The two sides reviewed relations of friendship and cooperation between the ASBP and the CPC and between the two friendly countries' people, as well as ways to strengthen and develop these relations.

The assistant regional secretary spoke about the political and democratic structure in Syria and the economic and social achievements attained in the country, particularly following the launching of the glorious Corrective Movement. Qaddah then reviewed the political developments in the region and the principled firm stand adopted by Syria, defining the components of the desired peace. He reiterated our people's belief in just and comprehensive peace based on the principles of interna-

tional legitimacy, the UN resolutions, and the principle of land for peace.

Qaddah noted the policy of maneuvering and deception adopted by Israel, which continued to occupy Arab land, usurp national rights, evade the requirements of just and comprehensive peace, launch continuous brutal aggressions against southern Lebanon, strike at civilian targets, commit bestial massacres, and kill hundreds of defenseless people, thereby violating the basic rules of justice and the components of the desired peace.

The PRC vice premier asserted his country's support for establishing a just peace, based on the Security Council resolutions. He highly praised the economic and social achievements attained by Syria and commended the wise policy adopted by Syria under the leadership of militant leader Hafiz al-Asad.

Syria: Official Talks With PRC Concluded; Agreement Signed

JN1405074096 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 14 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Official talks between Syria and the PRC concluded at the Prime Ministry yesterday evening. The talks were chaired by Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and PRC Vice Premier Wu Bangguo. The delegations of the two countries attended the talks.

At the outset, Dr. Salim Yasin thanked Bangguo and his delegation for their efforts to render the talks successful. Dr. Salim Yasin added: We have sensed a mutual desire to expand and promote cooperation in all fields to serve the common interests of the two friendly countries. He added that the leadership in both countries directed that agreements be implemented and that other areas of cooperation be explored. Dr. Salim Yasin said this visit added a new brick to the edifice of Syrian-PRC ties. I hope that such visits will be repeated so that other bricks will be added to bolster friendship and cooperation between the two friendly countries, he added.

Bangguo delivered a speech in reply, in which he thanked Syria on behalf of his delegation for the warm welcome and hospitality they received in friendly Syria, noting that the PRC people have great love for Syria and highly appreciate its role. He added: Our visit was successful. It was crowned today with our meeting with President al-Asad. Such successful visits will consolidate political, economic, and trade relations between our two countries. Bangguo asserted the PRC's desire to promote relations with Syria. He said: We will work to implement what was agreed upon to advance relations between the two countries.

The joint minutes of the talks included the results achieved by the delegations of the two countries during their talks, which were permeated with a spirit of friendship and cooperation. The joint minutes noted that the two sides agreed to boost trade cooperation by increasing the volume of trade and diversifying it, as well as adopting all appropriate measures to achieve this objective. In addition, the two sides will launch joint ventures and investments and increase economic and technical cooperation.

Dr. Tawfiq Isma'il, assistant minister of state for planning affairs, and [Qian Won Chang], PRC assistant minister of foreign trade and economic cooperation, signed an agreement for economic and technical cooperation between the two countries.

Syria: Vice President Khaddam Returns From Iran Visit

JN1305204096 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam returned from Tehran this evening after representing President Hafiz al-Asad at the inauguration the railroad linking Iran with Turkmenistan — the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tedzhen railroad.

Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Khaddam who conveyed to him a message from President Hafiz al-Asad on relations between the two friendly countries and issues of mutual interest.

Syria: Paper—Israel Trying To Redirect Monitoring Committee Role

JN1305120896 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 13 May 96

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its commentary today under the headline "The New Aggression, Why?" AL-BA'TH speaks about the new Israeli raids on peaceful villages in southern Lebanon. It says: These raids prove anew that Israel's aggressive policy has continued since its entity was established in our Arab homeland. These raids also show that it is impossible for the Tel Aviv government

to abide by any agreement or understanding of any kind and on any issue unless it is in total harmony with its interests and objectives.

AL-BA'TH adds: He who follows the Israeli party leaders' statements during their election campaigns, will undoubtedly realize that Israel's policy has not changed, and, it seems, will not change. This is because all Israeli leaders still ignore the Arabs' rights and believe that military force is the only means which guarantees their entity's survival. Based on this, they reject any approach toward a real and comprehensive peace in the region.

AL-BA'TH notes: Israel, which failed to achieve any of the objectives of its brutal aggression against Lebanon, seeks to make a certain gain by redirecting the real task of the Monitoring Committee which includes five states; namely, Syria, Lebanon, France, the United States, and Israel. The task of this committee is to monitor the cease-fire. Israel wants the committee to play a political role. Certainly, this conflicts with the principle according to which the committee was formed and the mechanism of its action. These Israeli attempts were encountered by a firm Syrian-Lebanese stand. Syria and Lebanon reiterated their rejection of these Israeli ideas. At the same time, they made proposals that are in harmony with the framework of understanding which was reached and which serves the mechanism of the proposed monitoring committee's action.

AL-BA'TH says: It is impossible for Israel to make any step which does not achieve all its objectives. The five-year old peace negotiations give strong proof that he is mistaken who believes that Israel would make any step toward advancing the peace process which was obstructed by Israel. The truth is that the new Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon yesterday is part of the Israeli approach of imposing the status quo policy through military force and of making more gains at the expense of the Arabs.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: At any rate, we hope that Israel and those who supply it with all its requirements will realize that the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region and the continuation of the policy of aggression do not at all go together.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Officials Condemn Attack on Iranian Embassy in Kabul

LD1205100096 Tehran IRNA in English
0726 GMT 12 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 12, IRNA — The acting Afghan foreign minister, Najibollah Lafra'i, and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati discussed the critical situation in Afghanistan Saturday evening in Ashgabat. The meeting took place on the sidelines of the foreign ministerial conference of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) that is currently held in Turkmenistan. Lafra'i expressed regret over the rocket attack on the Iranian embassy in Kabul.

Underlining the need to settle the Afghan crisis through peaceful and political means, Velayati voiced Iran's readiness to continue its efforts to end the current conflict in that country. Stressing that the Afghan problem should be solved by the Afghan nation with the help of the neighboring countries, the two officials condemned the intervention of foreign forces in Afghanistan's domestic affairs.

[Tehran IRNA English at 0925 GMT on 12 May, in a Kabul-dated item, adds: "The Jam'iyat-e Eslami (Islamic Society) party of Afghanistan denounced the shelling of the Iranian embassy in Kabul, terming it an obvious example of international terrorism. The Iranian mission sustained heavy damage and two embassy staff were injured in the Taleban rocket attacks on the Afghan capital on May 4.

"The latest issue of the 'MOJAHED' weekly, the organ of the ruling Islamic Society Party, also criticized international bodies for showing no reaction to the destruction. The weekly also expressed concern of Afghan government officials over the supply of arms to opposing Afghan groups, saying that this was the cause of escalation of fightings in the region. It also called for more dynamic international diplomacy in order to resolve the conflict in Afghanistan."]

Afghanistan: Government Offers To Help Repair Pakistan Embassy Building

LD1305190696 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network
in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman has described the recent visit of the government delegation to Islamabad and added: The visit, at the invitation of the Government of Pakistan, showed the goodwill of the Afghan Government to normalize relations between the two countries. The spokesman added: The Afghan side believes the resumption of the

diplomatic activities of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in the capital of our country can be considered as a positive step in this direction. Therefore, the reopening of the Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul will play a positive role in the improvement of relations between the two sides. For the resumption of Pakistan's diplomatic activities, the Government of Afghanistan is ready to donate another suitable building to that country until its [damaged] embassy building is ready to be used. The Foreign Ministry spokesman also said that the Afghan side was ready to provide necessary facilities for the repair of the Pakistan Embassy building in Kabul and to take necessary measures to ensure its security.

Afghanistan: Islamic Party Official Comments on Talks With Government

LD1305222596 (Clandestine) Radio Message of
Freedom in Dari
to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 13 May 96

[Interview with Ali Ansari, head of social services and member of the executive council of Hezb-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] Esteemed Ali Ansari, because you are closely in touch with the Afghan affairs, please give information about the current political situation in the country.

[Ansari] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Thank you for giving me this opportunity. I am pleased to inform listeners of Radio Message of Freedom about the issues I have closely observed. The one definite thing that the Afghans need is peace. Fortunately on the basis of its ideological strategy, Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] is committed to the restoration of peace and security in Afghanistan by any means. One way of ensuring this is rapprochement between the jihadi parties. As our people and mojahedin know, great conspiracies are being hatched by the enemies of Afghanistan to dismember our country, to defame the mojahedin, and to sabotage the achievements of jihad. For a long time Hezb-e Eslami has practically and morally been involved in efforts to enter talks with different sides and to ensure peace and security in the country. As you know, talks have been held with several other parties as well. Because other parties, especially the Taleban, closed the door of negotiations in connection with peace and security in the country, Hezb-e Eslami and Jam'iyat-e Eslami [break in reception] as two committed jihadi and ideological parties in the country decided to make peace and to hold talks. As we have noticed during this week, the talks have reached a fruitful stage. I am confident that in the coming days you will see [break in reception] the result of the talks.

[Correspondent] You said that the Taleban have closed the door of talks to other parties. What is their purpose of closing the door to talks?

[Ansari] Hezb-e Eslami was negotiating with the Taleban for a long time in 1374 [starting 21 March 1995]. However, at the end they denied the results of the talks and refused to hold talks with jihadi parties. By running away from talks and by not accepting the result of the talks they basically closed the door to the talks and understanding. Those who refuse to hold talks want fighting. We have practically seen in the country that no political problem can be resolved by the fighting. All problems should be resolved at negotiation table.

[Correspondent] You said talks were going on between Hezb-e Eslami and Jam'iyat-e Eslami. Can Hezb-Jam'iyat talks lead to the solution of the crisis in Afghanistan?

[Ansari] No denying that Hezb and Jam'iyat are jihadi and ideological parties. If we look at the talks in ideological terms, I am sure that all ideological circles will support the talks. But we see that the circles that are against an Islamic government in Afghanistan, against a mojahedin government, and against the achievements of the Islamic jihad are against the talks between Hezb and Jam'iyat. Besides, certain circles beyond the borders of the country are also trying to prevent contacts and understanding between jihadi parties.

[Correspondent] As you are involved in the process, do you believe that Jam'iyat is sincere in holding talks or will it again embark on tricks?

[Ansari] Although I was not personally involved in the talks [words indistinct] I believe that the current talks are being held in a much more sincere atmosphere than those held four years ago, and I am optimistic that the current talks will produce a result. [passage omitted: reassuring the people on result of talks]

[Correspondent] Have other member parties of the High Coordination Council also taken part in the Hezb-Jam'iyat talks and do they approve them?

[Ansari] Hezb-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan is a member of the High Coordination Council. Every member party of the council can hold talks with any side and can continue talks. But the party concerned should brief other parties about the result and achievements of the talks. So far as I know the progress of the talks has regularly been conveyed to the near or far away officials of the High Coordination Council. I personally believe that if Hezb-Jam'iyat talks are in the interest of Islam, in the high interests of our country, and finally for the restoration of peace and security in the country, God willing, other

members of the High Coordination Council will also support them. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan: 'Militant Arab Group' Threatens To Raise Islamic Army

BK1405064096 Islamabad THE NEWS in English
13 May 96 p 12

[Report by Ismail Khan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PESHAWAR: A militant Arab group based in Afghanistan's Kunar province has threatened to raise an Islamic army to wage Jihad against the "evil West and its Muslim proteges" in Pakistan and elsewhere.

According to security officials, an 11-page small booklet in Arabic circulated in Peshawar by a "Khalifa" group led by a Jordanian-Palestinian national Abu 'Abdallah Al-Rfaee based in Kunar province bordering Pakistan urged Muslims to join hands with them in their struggle against evil forces.

Subsequent pamphlets circulated in Peshawar speak of raising Islamic armies from Afghanistan, Chechnya, and Pakistan's tribal territories to deal with Europe after sweeping across the Central Asian republics.

Rfaee, a physiotherapist by profession, received his university education from Sindh. An Afghan war-veteran, he fled to Khyber Agency's Terah valley along with a few other Arabs following a government crackdown on aliens in April 1993. He declared himself the Caliph, head of the Muslim Ummah, and obtained oath of allegiance from his followers. He and his Arab followers, however, had to flee again, this time to Afghanistan, to escape a government-sponsored tribal uprising against them in June 1994.

Security officials said Rfaee enjoys both respect and following among the Afghans in Kunar and receives funds from private donors in the oil-rich Gulf countries.

Investigators and security officials estimate the total strength of the so-called Khalifa group at a few dozens. Still they believe that their militant approach makes them a security threat. "They are fanatics, nutty, trained and have money which makes them a real threat," commented a police investigator who claimed that the group was in league with Takfiris, another militant Arab outfit in Afghanistan.

Takfiris consider the US, West and the Islamic countries under their sphere of influence as a world of infidels.

The booklet while reminding Muslims their duties urges them to fight against the evil forces and their armies and join in the Jihad against the evil and their supporters.

"Muslims should expect torture, misery and all sorts of problems in their holy cause," it says.

Elaborating its plans, the booklet underlines two immediate obliterate Al-Quds and the Indian Sub-Continent and purge them of the proteges of evil forces.

"Doors for training of the faithful Muslims to become part of the Islamic army are open," it says. "Anyone who does not join the struggle against the evil forces is a non-Muslim."

Arab community sources, however, do not give much weightage to the group and believe that the Pakistani security agencies have exaggerated its strength and funding. "No doubt they are fanatics but they don't even have enough to live on," remarked one source who claimed to have known Refaee from his days in the university.

India

India: NF-LF Parties Rule Out Coalition With Congress Party

BK1305162496 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The uncertainty over the formation of a new government at the center continues though some regional parties have announced their stance. In a day of swift developments, the main partner in the Left Front, the CPI-M [Communist Party of India- Marxist], has decided not to participate in the government, but will support a non-Congress secular government from outside. The party central committee at a meeting in New Delhi today approved the efforts to prevent the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] from coming to power.

The constituents of the regional parties' front have announced divergent stance. While the Shiromani Akali Dal extended unconditional support to the BJP, the DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] ruled out support to the BJP. The Asom Gana Parishad [AGP] says the final decision on extending support to the National Front-Left Front [NF-LF] at the center will be taken after the proposed meeting of regional parties in New Delhi tomorrow.

Much of the political activity shifted to Madras where a DMK ministry was installed. The Telugu Desam [Party] leader, Mr. Chandrababu Naidu, after holding talks with Mr. Karunanidhi and Mr. G.K. Moopanar told newsmen in Madras that a new front of regional parties will be set up tomorrow and will work for forming a secular government at the center with the support of the National Front-Left Front combine. While Mr. Naidu said he is not averse to receiving support from

the Congress, the Akali Dal leader, Mr. S.S. Barnala, said in New Delhi that they are supporting BJP because the Dal does not want to support a government formed with the help of the Congress. The TMC [Tamil Maanila Congress] leader, Mr. Moopanar, said his party has decided to support only a secular government, which will respect the Tamil sentiments. The DMK leader, Mr. Karunanidhi, said that DMK will not join the National Front but will hold discussions with Mr. V.P. Singh regarding the formation of a government. He said Mr. V.P. Singh is DMK's first choice for prime ministership. Both Mr. Moopanar and Mr. Karunanidhi said they had telephonic conversation with the Congress president, Mr. Narasimha Rao. Leaders of all the five regional parties, the DMK, the TMC, the Telugu Desam, the AGP, and the Akali Dal, however said the final decision about their stand will be taken only after tomorrow's meeting.

Meanwhile, the Janata Dal's political affairs committee met twice in New Delhi today. The party leaders were of the view that the Third Front — comprising the Janata Dal, Left parties and regional parties — should stake claim of forming the government. The party spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, indicated that the Janata Dal is not in favor of a coalition with the Congress. He said the leader of the Third Front will be chosen after consulting the regional parties.

The Bharatiya Janata Party, on the other hand, asserted that being the single largest party, it should be invited to form the government. The party spokesperson, Miss Sushma Swaraj, told newsmen that there has been a precedent in 1989 when Rajiv Gandhi was invited first as the Congress was the single largest party.

The Shiv Sena has written to the president that it would extend support to the BJP in forming the government at the center.

Former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has said coalition governments have worked well in states like West Bengal and Kerala and the system can work effectively at the center also. Addressing a press conference at Kathua in Jammu and Kashmir today, he said the senior leaders of the Left Front and National Front would choose a consensus candidate who with unconditional support from the Congress would be able to form the government at the center.

The BJP's prime ministerial candidate, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, has asserted that he does not see the possibility of the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, not inviting his party to form the government. Talking to media persons at his residence while receiving an Akali Dal delegation led by Mr. Prakash Singh Badal

this evening, Mr. Vajpayee said that efforts by the Congress and the National Front to keep the BJP out of contention will not succeed.

The secretary of the Congress party in parliament called on the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma and handed over a letter informing Dr. Sharma about Mr. Narasimha Rao's reelection as the CPP [Congress Parliamentary Party] leader.

The Samata president, Mr. George Fernandes, met the president and handed over a representation on behalf of his party requesting Dr. Sharma to invite Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee to form the government.

Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav has been unanimously elected as leader of the Samajwadi Party's parliamentary group. A meeting of the party's newly elected members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members was held in New Delhi today. Mr. Yadav's name was proposed by Mr. Beni Prasad Verma and seconded by four others.

India: CPI-M Maintains No Participation Stance

*BK1405090096 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0830 GMT 14 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The CPI-M [Communist Party of India- Marxist] today stuck to its decision not to participate in a coalition government. According to PTI, the central committee of the party at its emergency meeting in New Delhi this afternoon reiterated its earlier decision to support a National Front government from outside. Talking to newsmen, a member of the politburo, Mr. E. Balanandan, ruled out the West Bengal chief, Mr. Jyoti Basu, accepting the leadership of the coalition in case the third force is invited by the president to form the new government. The central committee of the CPI-M was convened to review yesterday's decision to support a non-Congress non-BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] secular government from outside. The National Front and its allies had requested the CPI-M to reconsider its decision after arriving at a consensus that Mr. Jyoti Basu should lead the Third Front government at the center.

The Janata Dal says it will hold a fresh round of talks later in the day to take stock of the political situation arising out of the CPI-M's decision not to participate in the Third Front government. Responding to the reports of the CPI-M's decision, the Janata Dal leader, Mr. Sharad Yadav, said party leaders will have detailed talks with the CPI-M leadership on the issue.

Four regional parties met in New Delhi today to evolve a strategy on the formation of a government at the center. The DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam], the Tamil Maanila Congress [TMC], the Telugu Desam, and the

AGP [Asom Gana Parishad], which have 58 MP's, may be meeting again later. The meeting presided over by the Tamil Nadu chief minister and DMK president, Mr. Karunanidhi, was attended by the Andhra Pradesh chief minister, Mr. N. Chandrababu Naidu; the TMC leaders, Mr. G.K. Moopanar and Mr. P. Chidambaram; and AGP MP's, Mr. K. Mahanta and Mr. A.K. Sharma. Later, they had a meeting with the CPI-M general secretary, Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjeet. Earlier, soon after his arrival in the capital, Mr. Karunanidhi met the former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh.

India: President's Post-Election Options Viewed

*BK1205082096 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0245 GMT 12 May 96*

[Commentary by P. Therian of THE HINDUSTAN TIMES]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Indian voter has brought about a sea-change in the national political scene uprooting many a stalwart and upsetting the calculations of quite a few political parties. Whereas the Congress has suffered its worst ever electoral defeat, the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] has emerged as a single largest party; but the complexion of the new government remains uncertain. The National Front-Left Front [NF-LF] has staked its claim to form the government mainly to ensure that the BJP is not in power. In these circumstances, the president has a difficult task in deciding whom should he invite. The Constitution does not mention how he should go about in making the vital decision. Being a constitutional expert and known for his impartiality, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma can be expected to take the right decision. Had any single party secured a number of seats somewhere in the vicinity of majority, the president could have easily asked the leader of that party to form the government. The BJP's problem is that despite emerging as a largest party, it, along with its allies, alone cannot muster majority. The president, therefore, has to ascertain the strength of the various groups before he arrives at a decision.

The options before the president are four. He can invite the largest party, that is the BJP, to form the government. If he thinks that the BJP will not be able to provide a stable government, his next step will be to ascertain which group of parties, that is which coalition, is likely to provide a stable government. Both the BJP as well as its allies and the National Front-Left Front and its allies are in the race. The president can make up his mind by studying the claims of the rival groups. It is precisely here that the Congress can play a decisive role. The issue is clinged if the Congress decides to support one of the groups. It will not come as a surprise if the

Congress or section of it decides to support one of the competing groups. If the president is not convinced by the claims of the various groups, he could under Article 86 of the Constitution ask the new Lok Sabha to elect the leader. If even this exercise proves futile, he can order fresh elections. It is hoped that this extreme step will not be needed and the president will be able to entrust power to a party or a group of parties, which can provide a stable government.

India: Rao 'Vindicated' by Reelection as Congress Leader

BK1405093996 Delhi THE ASIAN AGE in English
13 May 96 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] With nothing to play with but pawns, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao checkmated his opponents with bloodless ease, and emerged from a day advertised as his nemesis with his leadership of the Congress doubly vindicated. In the morning, the Congress Working Committee [CWC] reaffirmed faith in his leadership; in the evening Congress MPs queued up to garland him after his unanimous reelection as their leader. And just to ensure that there was no confusion, Mr Rao's name for parliamentary leader was proposed by the three chief rebels Mr K. Karunakaran, Mr Sharad Pawar and Mr Rajesh Pilot. All three wore the beatific look of pet lambs.

Mr Rao had bought their hard support with a soft promise for tomorrow: he would consider stepping down from the presidentship of the Congress at the next meeting of the CWC, scheduled for May 22.

The Congress also passed a resolution seeking a government of secular forces, clearing the way for a united front with the Janata parties and the regional parties as well as the Left. The Left had not however made up its mind about whether to join such a government or support it from outside.

And that was not the end of the good news for Mr Rao. Word was also out by the evening that the majority within the Janata Dal had dropped their reservations about him and were ready to form a coalition government with the Congress. In a decision which is taking place in stages, as levels of resistance are ironed out, the focus has now shifted to creating as large a united front as possible, including the Janata Dal, the Samajwadi Party, the Left and the regional parties. It is a process that will extend to another 48 hours at the very least. Problems about a coalition with the Congress, as well as accepting Mr Rao as Prime Minister abound; the internal debate is furious in the CPI(M) [Communist Party of India-Marxist] as well as the Janata.

Mr Rao's agenda today did not concern the other parties; he had to first snatch victory from defeat within the Congress. He was also aware of the determined move, lead once again by Mr Sharad Pawar, to replace him as either Congress president or leader of the parliamentary party. The one point clamour by all potential partners of the Congress that they wanted the head of Mr Rao did not make life easier.

The Group of Eight, led by Mr Karunakaran, Mr Sharad Pawar and Mr Rajesh Pilot, had worked late into the night to mobilise support for their line. Till this morning they were determined to confront Mr Rao at the CWC meeting and contest the parliamentary leadership. When Mr Pilot suggested that he be the candidate, Mr Pawar insisted that his name be placed on the ballot. There was agreement on the latter's nomination.

This morning, it was a different world. Mr Rao opened the CWC meeting by, a little uncharacteristically, taking the bull by the horns. He said that the Congress was in touch with all the other parties who could be partners in a coalition, and the urgent need of the moment was that there should be a government in Delhi without the BJP. He pointed out that the others also knew that there could be no government without the Congress.

He then referred, again unusually, directly to the rebellion fomented by Mr Pawar. He said he had been told that there was a demand for a change in leadership. Addressing Mr Pawar by name, he said that the Congress was a democratic party and that there was no problem whatsoever in anyone wanting to contest an internal election, but the main agenda of the moment was surely the formation of a secular government.

More obliquely, he accepted the principle of one man for one post, and said that this issue could be resolved at the next meeting of the working committee, which he said would take place on May 22.

The Group of Eight met separately, at the residence of Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad, just after the CWC meeting, to assess their prospects and check out their next move.

The rebels who had come to bury Caesar stayed to praise him. The parliamentary party meeting in the evening, which was expected to be full of the drama of secret ballots, ended up as a 45-minute paean for Mr Narasimha Rao. Once again, the resolution took no chances with history: it passed on the blame for the debacle to everyone, pointing out categorically that no single individual could be blamed for the defeat.

Mr Rao had proved once again that when it came to handling adversity, he had no peer in Indian politics.

India: President Asked To Act Judiciously in Forming Government

BK1405090496 Delhi DAINIK JAGRAN in Hindi
11 May 96 p 6

[Editorial: "The Crisis at Forming the Government"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Indian politics is again caught in a crisis. The Congress faced a crushing defeat despite receiving the largest percentage of votes. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) emerged as the largest single party, claiming the right to form the government, although it received only 22 to 23 percent of the total votes. Curiously, even those parties that received an even smaller percentage of votes than the BJP are staking their claim to form the government. The National Front (NF) and the Left Front (LF) are not only staking their claim to form the government, they are also making hectic preparations to establish their government. Obviously they hope to claim their right to form the government on the basis of their manipulative ability.

Any government formed out of these petty manipulations cannot do the nation any good. Those political observers who claim that the government could be formed on the strength of the minimum common program of the allied parties and that such a government would also be able to complete its full term are not only deceiving themselves but the nation as well. The ruthless cutthroat competition of "one-upmanship" that the constituents of the National Front were indulging in is no longer a secret, and still the various leaders of these factions cannot tolerate any one of them scoring over any other of them. As such, there is no possibility that they will all bury their hatchets suddenly and will emerge as a homogeneous and disciplined group almost overnight. To imagine such a drastic change of heart is to indulge in pure fantasy. They are unlikely to develop such camaraderie for each other in a truce, however big the temptation.

Moreover, this is not only true with the NF-LF but with all the constituent units of the so-called Third Front. This is a bitter truth because the NF-LF cannot form the government exclusively on their combined strength. The NF-LF combine and other groups or alliances can only pretend to be united on the basis of their much vaunted minimum common program. In reality, they cannot be a dissension free, homogeneous, and united group of people bound by their common commitment.

The petty political selfishness, narrow-minded outlook, egotism, and the mafia dons that infest the Indian politics negate the possibility of these arch-rival political mafia dons suddenly developing a great love for each

other. Those very groups that were thirsting for their rival leaders' blood until yesterday might shamelessly emerge in the same forum because of some ulterior motives. The fact is, however, that their close association has not been caused by either their change of heart or their love for democratic ideals. The problem, however, is that eventually a government has to be formed, and whichever group or alliance succeeds in doing so will be working only with the material available.

No one can currently predict which party or group will succeed in forming the government because the formation of the new government is now also very much dependent on the president's discretion. If the president chooses to follow precedent, his inviting the BJP to form the government is almost certain because it is the single largest party to emerge in the Lok Sabha following these elections. The NF-LF, however, is also staking its claim in this direction, and the leaders of this alliance can always argue that they form the largest single group with the expected support of the Akali Dal, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and some independent members also. To claim a majority, the leaders of the NF-LF group can also mention the support they are receiving from various regional parties. If the president accepts their claim, this will be an absolutely new political occurrence. In that event, strong criticism of the president for accepting this strange claim cannot be ruled out either.

It is true that the Constitution empowers the president to anoint anyone as the country's prime minister with the condition that the new incumbent proves his group's or party's majority on the floor of the Lok Sabha within a stipulated period. Equally true, however, is the fact that such a large country cannot be ruled with the help of certain lifeless, arbitrarily formed laws or regulations. In the context of providing the country with an able government, the relevance of the vibrant and lively spirit of the Constitution cannot be denied. The Constitution has been formed for the people's welfare and security, which has been highlighted by the glorious traditions in the past. Neglecting them would mean debilitating the very spirit of our Constitution. This should not be tolerated. Forsaking noble tradition might immediately give some temporary advantage to some vested interest, but ultimately this imprudent action will breed only evil forces in its wake. Hence, it is eminently advisable to follow the noble traditions nourished in a democratic framework rather than to succumb to petty political considerations and give way to political opportunism.

Fortunately, our president is not only aware of these facts, he himself is a great supporter of upholding noble democratic principles. Hence, it is expected that he will not encourage political opportunism and immoral horse trading in the context of the formation of the

government since he has never missed any opportunity to cast a severe blow against these tendencies in a variety of attacks. The country expects him to rule justly and judiciously by not making any decision that might damage the democratic norms or weaken the very spirit of our Constitution. The country's benefit lies in his acting very carefully and cautiously at this juncture. It is hoped that our learned president will make a right decision in the contest of forming the government that will strengthen our values, traditions, and noble ideals in conformity with the spirit of our Constitution.

India: Editorial Discusses Inevitability of Coalition Government

BK1205133196 *Delhi HINDUSTAN in Hindi*
10 May 96 p 6

[Editorial: "The Knock of the Coalition Government"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Though not all of the results of the elections have been declared, indications are very clear that no one party is likely to secure a majority; neither on its own strength, nor on the strength of alliances with other parties or groups. No party is in a position to form the government. Clearly the country now stands on the threshold of the first coalition government. This has never happened before. It used to be that Chandrashekhar or Chaudhari Charan Singh could form the government with just a handful of MPs and a promise of 'support' from outside. We could call the 1977 government — that was formed after various alliances created the Janata Party — the first coalition government, but that experiment was not successful. The country would like to forget the bitter experiences of those minority governments formed by either Charan Singh, V.P. Singh or Chandrashekhar. Even the existing prime minister, Narasimha Rao, began his term as the head of a minority government, but he managed to get the support needed to convert it into a majority government.

The fact is without a clear-cut majority, the government's rule is fraught with danger and can give no satisfaction. Though the Rao government had a majority in the Lok Sabha, many bills could not be considered because the government did not hold a majority in the Rajya Sabha (Upper House). Barring the 1985 Rajiv government, for nearly the last two decades the people seem to be hinting at a coalition government and leaning toward the politics of alliances. Despite this hint, the political parties and their leaders were unable to rid themselves of the 'one party rule mentality.' As a result, if the government was not working many important bills remained unattended. State politics warned that the time had come to change our mind-set, but it was not heeded, and the horse-trading and manipulative games

continued as they were needed to secure a majority in the legislative houses.

This time the people's verdict is loud and clear: The era of one party rule is over. We have no one party to represent the people of the entire country. The politics of coalition and alliance have come to stay. We must not forget, however, that 'coalition' does not mean manipulation. It means issues based on agreement and making the decision by seeking consensus-opinion in a democratic way. The people have rejected the one-party rule concept. It wants a party that is accountable to the people. They want to see a government formed that will function by consensus and consideration for all.

Unfortunately the problem now is that our leaders and party bosses find themselves bewildered. They have no idea how to work in tandem with others. If we set aside Jyoti Basu's experience of running the government by obliging all the constituents of the coalition, we have hardly any alliance or coalition not guided by the politics of manipulation or horse-trading. If the politicians and parties want to honor the people's verdict this time, however, they must mend their ways and develop politics along these very lines. They cannot afford to dispense with it either.

India: Downfall of Prime Minister Rao Recounted

BK1205105096 *Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES*
in English 11 May 96 p 11

[Editorial: "Requiem for Rao"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] History often is a pitiless critic but it will definitely be less unkind to Mr Narasimha Rao than the Indian electorate has been to him just now. Mr Narasimha Rao, who resigned as Prime Minister on Friday in the wake of the most severe drubbing the Congress has ever received at the hustings, is the first person outside the Nehru-Gandhi family to complete a full term as the head of the Union Government. When he assumed office as Prime Minister back in June 1991 few gave him a reign of more than six months. Over the past five years he remained solid in office even as his critics and detractors never stopped writing him off. Always giving the impression of indecisiveness and immobility, Mr Narasimha Rao was the prime mover of independent India's most momentous economic reform programme as also the unleasher of a multitude of forces which would change the very character of the Indian polity.

Barring the last half year of his rule, Mr Rao's tenure was marked by a discernible shift from the politics of confrontation into the politics of consensus. Mr Narasimha Rao contributed to lowering the decibel level of political debate and virtually banished the language of

violence that characterised the regimes of Rajiv Gandhi and V.P. Singh. Peace in Punjab and Assam owed much to the Rao government's unobtrusive but helpful policy. While he could not restore democracy in the Congress he allowed a large amount of ministerial autonomy in the running of his government. The plethora of scams and scandals and the unchecked corruption of his ministers did not prove a damper on the vibrancy of the financial sector and the strength of the economy. In brief, Mr Narasimha Rao was as good a Prime Minister as any India had had in the past.

However, the debit side too is telling. Like his predecessors, Mr Rao too allowed the Congress party to decay at the roots by not reviving the democratic institutions. Instead of strengthening the party he seemingly strove to destroy even the surviving vestiges of an organisational structure. His communication both with his ministerial colleagues and party men remained minimal while it was nearly zero with the media, the rank and file of the party and the people at large. As he became more and more stable in power, he acquired authoritarian tendencies and basked in the glory of unchallenged authority preferring sycophants rather than frank opinion givers. Mr Rao's greatest disservice to the Congress party came in two phases. In the first, he steadfastly shielded the identified corrupt and criminals in the party disregarding all evidence and advice to the contrary. In the second, he started jettisoning not only the tainted party men but also those who were perceived as potential rivals to him. In brief, he was the most disastrous Congress president this country has ever had. In providing a stable government he destabilised his own party. He made indecision an essential input of decision-making. Instead of rooting out corruption, he went out of his way to show that every segment of the polity was corrupt. If his arrival in 1991 was a blessing for the country, his departure on Friday could prove to be even a greater blessing.

India: Former Prime Minister Interviewed on Elections

BBK1205102696 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English
11 May 96 p 6

["Excerpts" of interview with former Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh by Ritu Sarin at his home in Delhi; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Sarin] Do you see before you an opportunity to revive the National Front [NF] of 1989?

[Singh] There is an opening for the National Front to reorganise itself. A coming together of the constituents of the Front is very much on the cards. It depends

upon the sagacity of the NF leaders (whether it actually happens or not).

[Sarin] The NF had been all but given up as a spent force. When did you see this swing in its favour?

[Singh] The swing took place because there is a very large constituency of Voters in India who do not accept the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] or the Congress. There is a ground political reality which is sustaining this mood.

[Sarin] As of today, which constituents are heading for a realignment with the NF? You are in touch with the AGP [Asom Gana Parishad] and some other parties...

[Singh] The earlier context was different from this one. But there is no secret about it. Largely, the forces which will gravitate towards it are the AGP, the DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] and the factions led by Chandrababu Naidu and Lakshmi Parvathi. Both of them say they are with the NF, but how it eventually works out remains to be seen. And, of course, the core will be provided by the Janata Dai, the Left Front and Mulayam Singh Yadav.

[Sarin] Are you absolutely confident of Prafulla Kumar Mahanta's support? The BJP is also boasting that it has the support of the AGP.

[Singh] I spoke to Mahanta yesterday on the telephone. I had also met him when he was here in Delhi. I do not reveal the contents of my conversations. But the fact is that there has been a very positive response from him. The AGP has aligned with the Left and they will maintain their alliance. The positions of others like Lakshmi Parvathi and Chandrababu Naidu are also known.

[Sarin] What about the Akali Dal? Are you in touch with the leaders in Punjab?

[Singh] No, I have not spoken to anyone there.

[Sarin] This is a situation when every party will try and split every other party. And the Janata Dal [JD], more than the other principal party, is the one which has been speaking in many voices and is very susceptible to a split. Do you agree that the apparent disunity in the JD ranks may cost it dearly?

[Singh] There may be many voices (in the JD) but it acts together. I do not think any attempts at splitting the party will succeed.

[Sarin] The NF also suffers from the disadvantage of not having any clear candidate in the race for Prime Ministership. You already have P.V. Narasimha Rao and Atal Behari Vajpayee as the candidates of the Congress and the BJP. Who is your candidate?

[Singh] What is the use of having a Prime Minister without numbers? That matter is over and closed because these parties will not have the numbers. These were issues before the elections. In the post-election scenario, all that matters is who has the MPs. These people do not have the numbers.

[Sarin] In your television interviews you have floated the names of Vice-President K.R. Narayanan and Lalu Prasad Yadav as possible Prime Ministerial candidates. Do you still maintain they are the NF's best bet?

[Singh] I was not giving names. I was only floating proposals. I was enumerating proposals like a reporter, you see. But since that caused a lot of confusion, I am finding it more prudent not to mention any names.

[Sarin] How do you see, in actual terms, the formation of a non- Rao, non-BJP Government? How do you see the arithmetic working?

[Singh] The arithmetic will work because the non-Rao, non-BJP MPs are in larger number. If they can come together, they can form the Government. And what is the point of talking of numbers? By tomorrow we will have the results.

[Sarin] Will that happen only if the Congress, say, stops at the figure of 150 seats? Or if the BJP stops at, say, 180-190 seats?

[Singh] The Congress will not cross 150 seats. There is something like political prudence. A broad line has emerged that the non-BJP forces are larger. That fact is clear. Within that, the dynamics will remain. It is now very clear that Narasimha Rao has not been able to increase any seat anywhere. Even in Andhra Pradesh, they have got what they got after Rajiv's assassination. So the verdict is very clear.

[Sarin] So, do you rule out the BJP coming to power?

[Singh] Yes, and this is simply because the larger section of MPs who have been elected do not want the BJP coming to power.

[Sarin] What is the critical mistake made by Rao? Was it the disastrous alliance with the AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam]?

[Singh] His biggest failing was that he did not enthuse confidence in the people. That is the basic thing. A Prime Minister's job is not purely administrative. He is also the focus of hope and he goes if he cannot give hope to the poorer and larger sections. Also, he must have a vision. Manoeuvring is not vision. For a poor man, what does he remember in five years? The fact is that Rao did not click with the masses.

[Sarin] Which of the rebel Congress leaders are you in touch with?

[Singh] In this situation, everyone meets everyone. I have met P. Chidambaram. If M. Karunanidhi comes to meet me, I will see him also.

[Sarin] The Sonia factor is once again casting a shadow over political developments and many of the rebel leaders you are hoping to align with are known to be close to her. Does that mean there has been a rapprochement between you and 10 Janpath?

[Singh] You are making a comment. I will not make a comment on your comment. People decide whom they want to support. I cannot tell them whom to have contacts with or not. And the decision about whom the NF aligns with will be taken by the party leadership. I am not even an MP. I do not even have a locus standi.

[Sarin] But you suddenly seem to have come out of your retirement to play the role of an active king-maker. Your retirement has become a very active one. Hasn't it?

[Singh] I addressed very few election meetings. But till the election phase is over, I will contribute whatever I can. So, this is almost the last week of my political activity. Then till 1999 I will be free, and thus I am following precisely what I said. I am a supporter of the party and do not have any other locus standi. You all pursue me and want interviews, and when I give them, you blame me for becoming active.

[Sarin] What about Jyoti Basu? He has great political and administrative acumen and is more acceptable to a liberalised economy than before. Can he be the NF's consensus candidate for the top slot?

[Singh] He is a towering personality but everything will arise out of meetings in the party.

[Sarin] What about you? You have succumbed to pressure from the party before.

[Singh] That is out of question. I am not going to be in the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha. The Constitution cannot be amended for me and my staying out has been guaranteed.

[Sarin] That is also the case with Narayanan whose name you floated as a Prime Ministerial candidate?

[Singh] I have made this proposition. He has not made such a proposal, he wants to stay out of Government till 1999.

[Sarin] Do you still maintain that the next Government will last only for two or two-and-a-half years?

[Singh] I do not know. It depends upon the sagacity of those who manage the Government. Agar pahale

bachche nahin bachein, yeh thori hai ki doosra bachcha paida nahin karen. Ho sakta hai lambhi zindagi ho. [preceding passage in Hindi] (Because you lost two issues, does not mean you do not beget children. Maybe they will survive and have a long life. They may have a longer life.)

Now the political reality is gravitating to the ground reality that India is a coalition, socially, economically and politically. In this we will have to go through the phase of a coalition and a learning process of running a coalition. We have to go through this national experience. We have gained this in the states — in Kerala and West Bengal — and now we will see it at the national level. It all depends upon the understanding between the parties.

India: Anti-APHC Demonstrations Held in Kashmiri Town

BK1105163496 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the Kashmir Valley, people in Charar Sharif town today held demonstrations against the All Parties Hurriyat Conference [APHC] leaders. They raised anti-Pakistan slogans and asked the APHC leaders to vacate the town immediately. Meanwhile, there was no response at all to the hartal [strike] call given by the APHC in the valley today. The state police have smashed another communication headquarters of an outlawed militant outfit in Kishtwar area. The headquarters was being used for subversive activities in Doda District and was linked with Pakistan's ISI [Inter Service Intelligence] network in Rawalpindi.

India: Government Urged To Use WTO Pact on IPR To Fend Off U.S.

BK1105105396 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 10 May 96 p 8

[Comment by Abha Shankar: "IPR: India Should Rebuff US Pressure"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The US warning that it would haul India before the World Trade Organisation (WTO) for not allegedly living up to its commitments to provide patent protection for pharmaceuticals and agricultural chemicals is a wily pressure manoeuvre to put the country on the defensive and prod it to move faster on intellectual property reforms. The United States wants the new Indian government to place legislation on revising intellectual property rights (IPR), high on its list of priorities. With major Indian political parties other than the Congress harbouring deep reservations over the proposed changes in the 1970 Indian Patents Act, the US believes that unless it employs a carrot- and-stick

strategy to foster new thinking, Indian patent reforms will not win Rajya Sabha [Upper House] approval.

The US economic diplomacy's pressure tactics are evident from the fact that in its April 30 statements, Washington announced the initiation of WTO dispute settlement proceedings immediately against two countries, Portugal and Pakistan, but delayed until unspecified time "in the near future", similar actions against two other nations, India and Turkey, because their national government was about to be or had just been elected. But even in the case of Portugal and Pakistan the US has acknowledged that its actions are aimed not so much at winning WTO rulings in its favour as at influencing those nations' domestic debate on intellectual property protection. "To encourage quick passage, the (US) administration will initiate formal consultations with Pakistan under WTO dispute, settlement procedures," admitted the office of the US Trade Representative.

The threat against India should be seen in the context of the aggressive push by the US to gain greater access to foreign markets for its goods and services, and to preserve its technological dominance and competitive edge through stringent international intellectual-property regulations that make it difficult for other states to reverse-engineer American commercial innovations. Buoyed by a low-inflation, investment-led recovery but facing growing challenges to its competitiveness, the US is making greater efforts to secure key privileges in international trade — the engine that has powered its economy for half a century. Although its exports are expanding at more than twice the GDP growth rate, it has, in the words of Deputy Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers, "launched the largest campaign to open (foreign) markets to our goods in decades".

One of its biggest diplomatic triumphs is the WTO Agreement on the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), which came fully into force for developed countries on January 1 this year. The intensely protective intellectual property rights regime — the antithesis to liberal, open competition — was fashioned under US inspiration without the developing countries in the Uruguay Round fathoming its implications. India, which should have played a leadership role in the negotiations woke up rather late to the significance of the non-reciprocal obligations incorporated in, TRIPS. India should have, in the first place, blocked the 1989 accord to include intellectual property in the negotiations since, conventionally, it was the domain of sovereign national decision-making, not of a multilateral trade regime.

What should India do now? First, it should not allow itself to be hustled into precipitous reformatory action

by US pressure stratagems. The country's newly-elected government and Parliament should carefully scrutinise each and every amendment to the patents law. Second, India must distinguish between the TRIPS-related obligations and America's interpretations of those obligations. India has to meet the obligations explicitly contained in TRIPS, not the wider interpretations sought to be pitchforked by the US.

India's intellectual property reforms should utilise the elasticity of some of the TRIPS provisions. For example, it should avail of the right to make the maximum number of patentability exclusions. The policy-relevant elasticity of Article 40 (Control of Anti-Competitive Practices), Article 31 (Unauthorised Use) and Article 27 (Patentability) of TRIPS should be fully exploited to serve national interest. To rebuff US pressure, India should also be ready to pay back in the same coin. If America's pressure escalates and it attempts to play its favourite "sanctions" card India should not hesitate to drag it before the WTO. Coercive diplomacy and unilateral penal measures, such as Special 301, violate the letter and spirit of the WTO accords.

India: Supercomputer Development Set To Enter 'Next Phase'

BK1305101196 *Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD*
in English 9 May 96 p 8

[Report by Srinivas Venugopal]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) is all set to enter the next phase of developing the ultimate in supercomputers in India by developing the first prototype of the Teraflops (floating point instruction per second) computers. The Centre, which comes under the department of electronics, has developed the Param OPUS machine, the first step toward the mission of creating Teraflops computing by 1998. This will enable C-DAC, the creation of which was the result of the US denial of supercomputing technology to India, back in the 80s, to build one of the world's largest Teraflops superpower computers, a crucial necessity in future areas of technology.

At present, only the US, Europe and Japan are involved in such a mission.

The power of the Teraflops computers can be explained from the fact that it will be capable of processing one trillion calculations in one second. That is, an ordinary scientific calculator will take 324 years of round-the-clock operations to accomplish what this machine can do in one second.

The benefits to the country are immense: from advanced weather forecasting to nuclear power generation; telecom; health care and research.

C-DAC is currently awaiting clearance from the centre to go ahead with the mission. The centre has so far successfully launched Param series of parallel processing supercomputers, ever since it stepped into its second mission in 1992 to give advanced computing to the nation.

C-DAC plans to develop the Teraflops computers during 1997-98.

It proposes to achieve this level by using the 1280 UltraSparc II/III procesesors with a whopping 320 GB memory.

The so-called Teraflops supercomputing will consume one mw of power and will occupy 2500 sq ft of space. It will consist of 40 complete clusters and contain eight storage cabinets. The computer will cost Rs [rupees] 200 crore.

Param OPUS, the first stage to Teraflops, uses the 16/32 giga flops (GB) UltraSparc processors.

The second mission of C-DAC which was to end in 1995 end was extended by the government to 1997-98. "We're confident of achieving the mission of Teraflops by 1988," Vijay P Bhatliar, C-DAC executive president said.

According to the centre, the cost of the project amounted to Rs 48 crore.

The choice of processor for these new class of machines, which has been a matter of difficulty for the centre, has been decided with the centre tying up with Sun Microsystems. The Sparc architecture from Sun Microsystems has become a clear winner.

Sun's servers and UltraSparc processing technology will now steer the centre towards its goal of building Teraflops advanced computing. The centre has entered into an agreement with Sun's Sparc technology business, now Sun Microelectronics, for technical information.

C-DAC developed the Param 9000 as a multi purpose parallel computer and launched it at Supercomputing 94 at Washington DC in November 1994.

The tie-up will enable Sun to become a premier systems integrator for the entire range of Sun products. The 64-bit UltraSparc processor used in the Ultra 1, Ultra 2 and Enterprise series of machines from Sun will be used in the Param OPUS.

India: DMK Ministry Assumes Power in Tamil Nadu

*BK1305093696 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0830 GMT 13 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A 26-member DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] ministry headed by Mr. M. Karunanidhi has assumed office in Tamil Nadu. The ministry was sworn by the governor, Dr. M. Chenna Reddy, at a simple ceremony this morning at the Raj Bhavan [governor's house] in Madras. New cabinet consists of 16 new faces. The DMK ministry has come back to power for the fourth time in its long and checkered history. Mr. Karunanidhi is the 12th chief minister of the state. The chief justice, Mr. K.A. Swamy, and the president of the Tamil Maanila Congress, Mr. G.K. Moopanar, were among those who attended the swearing in ceremony.

Iran

Iran: Aide on Relations With Lebanon, Hizballah

*MM1305131996 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 12 May 96 p 5*

[Interview with Kazem Khonsari, head of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the Iranian Foreign Ministry and "adviser to the Iranian foreign minister," by Ibrahim 'Awad in Beirut; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Awad] It has been reported that during your visit to Lebanon at the time of the Israeli aggression Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz declined to meet with you in token of their disappointment at Iran's way of dealing with Lebanese affairs. What is your response to their attitude?

[Khonsari] First, I must point out that my visit was actually very short, not exceeding 24 hours, as I had to cut it short and return to Damascus when I learned that Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati was coming to the Syrian capital to participate in efforts to stop the Israeli war on Lebanon. I was sure then that Foreign Minister Velayati would later visit Beirut to meet with the officials there and I would have to accompany him on this visit and attend his meetings with the Lebanese state officials. Furthermore, I realized also that the responsible Lebanese officials were fully preoccupied [with the situation] and would not be prepared to receive me.

['Awad] Did you not ask for appointments to meet with them and receive their reply apologizing for not being able to receive you, so that your meetings at the time were confined to a meeting with Nabih Birri, speaker of the Lebanese parliament?

[Khonsari] Yes. We did ask for that, but that was before I learned about Minister Velayati's intended visits to Damascus and Beirut.

['Awad] The Lebanese media reported that your meeting with Speaker Birri was stormy and that during it he asked you to deal directly with the Lebanese Government in all political matters and to confine all Iranian aid to the Lebanese Government and not distribute it to specific organizations, including Hizballah.

[Khonsari] With all due respect to the brother journalists and my love to them, they sometimes do not report the truth sincerely and they disseminate baseless reports. My aforementioned meeting with Speaker Nabih Birri was cordial as usual, indeed even differed from our previous meetings in terms of the degree of amity. In the circumstances, I have to deny all those reports.

['Awad] Your visit took place at a time when relations between Beirut and Tehran were passing through a period of coolness as evident from the statement issued by your embassy over a month ago and from Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz' reply deeming that statement interference in Lebanese affairs.

[Khonsari] I have never felt at any time that there was a coolness in relations between our two countries. Our relations have always been positive and cordial in all fields. As to the statement you are asking about, I know nothing at all about it and I am being truthful in saying so. (At this juncture, Khonsari inquired about the contents of that statement from Iranian Embassy First Secretary Ghadhanfer Asl Rokn Abadi [name as transliterated], who replied to him in Persian).

I have close and personal relations with the president of the republic and with the foreign minister. I was the first to take the initiative of visiting Lebanon and meeting with responsible Lebanese officials. Hence I can reaffirm that at no time did I ever feel any coolness in relations between the two countries even to a minimal degree.

['Awad] Let us put personal relations aside...what about the political relations between the two countries?

[Khonsari] We have distinguished political relations, and in all our meetings with responsible Lebanese officials we talked about the further development of these relations. May I point out in this regard that the cordial personal relations we have are only the result of the close political relations that bind me and the Lebanese leadership. I wish also to point out that the current visit of Lebanese Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr to attend the inauguration celebration of the railroad between Iran and Turkmenistan provides

a proof of the strength of relations between Iran and Lebanon.

[Awad] But all this does not negate the fact that Lebanon has admonished Iran for its interference in Lebanese affairs.

[Khonsari] We do not support interference in other peoples' affairs just as we do not want anyone to interfere in our internal affairs. We support Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity and the unity of its people with all its factions. This is what we believe in and work for. Our stand on Lebanon's side was only out of support for Lebanon vis-a-vis the Zionist enemy which has been causing harm to it and for its reconstruction and building and the enhancement of its development in the wake of the war that ravaged it.

[Awad] What were you told by the responsible Lebanese officials with whom you met in the past two days?

[Khonsari] We discussed the results of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and inspected the extent of the losses suffered by Lebanon as a result of the Israeli aggression. We also congratulated these officials on their success in routing and defeating the aggression and in frustrating its objectives. We affirmed to the Lebanese rulers the need for the continuation of the alliance between Lebanon and Syria. We support and continue to support and bless this alliance. The Iranian Government's position in this regard is clear. We will continue to support Lebanon through thick and thin and in all ordeals.

Now that the aggression against Lebanon has ended, it is only natural for the Lebanese to resume their reconstruction process. We have conveyed to the Lebanese officials our desire to participate in that march offering our readiness to help in this field.

[Awad] In view of the alliance between Tehran and Hizballah, how do you explain the abnormal relations that exist between the said party and the Lebanese Government?

[Khonsari] I have not noticed such relations, for as far as I know Hizballah's relations with responsible Lebanese officials are good. Hizballah's deputies had a meeting only yesterday with the Lebanese president of the republic, the parliament speaker, and the foreign minister.

[Awad] But they did not meet with Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri?

[Khonsari] I know nothing about this. You had better put that question to Prime Minister al-Hariri and the

brothers in Hizballah. I am not responsible for these relations which I consider to be an internal matter. As I have already said, we do not interfere in Lebanon's internal affairs, and the two sides concerned in your question are both Lebanese.

[Awad] How do you describe your relationship with Hizballah?

[Khonsari] It is a fraternal, ideological, revolutionary, cultural, and religious relationship. Hizballah and the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) are fighting the Israeli enemy who occupies Lebanese land. We hold all love and respect for any individual or side that resists the Israeli occupation. In this love, we do not differentiate between one faction and another or between one group and another. Some people are trying to distort our relationship with Hizballah and interpret it to suit themselves. We support all the steadfast in Lebanon and all the resistance fighters against the Israeli enemy. It is only natural for our admiration to be higher for those who offer more sacrifices than others in this regard.

[Awad] The Iranian foreign minister stated that the number of Hizballah deputies may increase as a result of the forthcoming Lebanese elections. His statement coincided with Hizballah's determination to move into the field of pure political activity and the abandonment of armed resistance after the Israeli occupation ends. What do you say to that?

[Khonsari] You must direct the second part of your question to my brothers in Hizballah, as I am not responsible for them. But it is certain that once the Israeli occupation comes to an end, there will be no need for armed resistance.

As to the increase in the number of Hizballah's deputies in the Lebanese chamber of deputies, this is a matter which depends on the Lebanese people's choice. The Lebanese clearly revealed their desire during the last elections in 1992 to elect to parliament the deputies they want. The aforementioned elections were honest and won our admiration and respect. It is only natural for man to show interest in those who offer sacrifices for his sake, and history bears witness to this. Hence there is nothing strange about the Lebanese people choosing their deputies from among members of the group that epitomizes that sacrifice.

[Awad] One last question. Did you hear any admonishment from Prime Minister al-Hariri when you met him the day before yesterday [10 May]?

[Khonsari] Not at all...we have heard no admonishment whatsoever. We met with Prime Minister al-Hariri in an official capacity within the framework of a delegation

headed by [Iranian] Housing Minister 'Abbas Ahmad-Akhundi, who conveyed to the Lebanese prime minister Iran's readiness to help in the implementation of all infrastructure projects that the Lebanese Government plans to embark upon. I was asked to remain in Lebanon to follow up procedures pertaining to this. Does not this in itself constitute proof of our government's desire to deal directly with the Lebanese Government?

Iran: 'No Evidence' to Israel's Claim of Iran's Moves in Lebanon

LD1305192196 Tehran IRNA in English
1636 GMT 13 May 96

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, May 13, IRNA — In what is seen as a campaign of disinformation against Iran, Israeli intelligence sources have been quoted as claiming that "Iran is creating a security zone for Hizballah forces and Iranian Revolutionary Guards" just north of Israel's self-styled security zone in southern Lebanon.

A report from Al-Quds today said the Israeli media have given ample coverage to the piece of disinformation.

The Israeli Arabic-radio political commentator, Shaul Menashe, who is of Iranian-Iraqi origin, claimed in a radio interview that "the occupation by Iran of Lebanese territory poses a direct threat to Lebanon's independence and to Syrian interests."

Menashe claimed that the Iranians were only interested "in spreading the Khomeinist ideology which constitutes a mortal danger to Arab regimes, and that Arab states, particularly Syria and Lebanon, should awake to that danger before it is too late."

The Israelis have produced no evidence to corroborate their claims, and Palestinians observers say that the Israeli allegations are probably meant to distract attention away from the failure of the recent Israeli aggression to dislodge Hizballah from the south Lebanon.

Furthermore, the Zionist regime is clearly unhappy at the visits of Iranian officials to Beirut and the proposed Iranian aid for Lebanon to rebuild houses destroyed during the Israeli onslaught.

Iran: Nateq-Nuri Opposes Attempt To Impeach Interior Minister

LD1205151596 Tehran SALAM in Persian 8 May 96
pp 1, 2

[Unattributed News Report: "Deputies Impeaching the Minister of Interior Deny Withdrawal of Request"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Some 11 people who have signed [a request] for the impeachment of the minister of interior have sent a new letter to the Majles speaker and called on him to announce that the impeachment has been received. The following is the text of the letter that was sent to the speaker last Monday [6 May].

"To the honorable speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, the following signatories have not withdrawn their request and have not reached any agreements. Could you please announce, according to the law, that [the request for the] impeachment has been received."

Following the two requests by the Majles deputies for impeachment, Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri told parliamentary correspondents on Monday: I oppose the impeachment of ministers in the last days of the fourth Majles. He said: I don't think it is in the interest of either the executive organizations or the legislature to impeach ministers in the last days of the fourth Majles. Therefore, I will negotiate with the friends who have requested the impeachment so they will change their mind.

He added: It is not sensible to drag the Majles into waves of impeachment in these days because it will undermine the executive organizations and will have an undesirable effect on the affairs of the country. I will try to talk to our friends and to persuade them to withdraw their request. But if they are not persuaded, I will put the request, according to the regulations, into effect.

Our correspondent asked: According to the regulations of the Majles the subject of impeachment must be clear and the case or cases put forward must be particular. In the request for the impeachment of the minister of interior the cases are specific and not general. Why is it then that the receipt of the request is not being announced? Nateq-Nuri answered: Some of the cases for the impeachment of the minister of interior are general or concern the annulment of voting [in some constituencies] or the rejection of the competency of some of the deputies. It seems that these questions must be put to the Guardian Council. I have therefore asked the gentlemen to correct and distinguish between the cases. Furthermore, I want to hold a meeting with the signatories and talk to them so they change their minds.

Another correspondent asked: Why don't you allow any impeachment in the Majles? Nateq-Nuri answered: It

is not that I don't want any. Indeed, it is not good management to chair an open meeting only to tell the speakers that they don't have the time to speak or that they are speaking out of context. But this is not only a case of management. I think that the Majles speaker must have the interests of the the Majles, the deputies, and most important of all, the system at heart. Sometimes I think something is not wise and I advise the friends accordingly. This is neither imposing guardianship, nor coercion, nor duress. I use my position and the respect that the deputies have for me to advise them. They generally accept. But if they insist and refuse my advice, well, I will announce the receipt of the request for the impeachment, as required by regulations.

Iran: Tehran Praises Rabbani-Hekmatyar Agreement

NC1405091096 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*
0345 GMT 14 May 96

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] After months of open and confidential talks the Afghan Government and Hezb-e Eslami led by Golboddin Hekmatyar announced yesterday that they have reached an agreement on peace and on bilateral unity. Before the announcement of this agreement some news agencies were reporting that Hezb-e Eslami armed forces had gone to Kabul and undertaken the defense of parts of the city opposite the Taleban Group.

Under this agreement, which complements the agreement reached in Bahman [month ending 19 February 1996] between the representatives of President Borhanoddin Rabbani and of Golboddin Hekmatyar, several key positions of the Afghan Government, particularly the premiership and the Defense Ministry, will be handed over to Hekmatyar.

Many experts on Afghan affairs believe that despite all the difficulties in implementing this agreement, it will also have positive political repercussions for the Afghans. The first political repercussion will be the breaking of the spell of ethnic disputes in Afghanistan, because Rabbani and Hekmatyar—as representatives of the Tajik and Pashtun people in Afghanistan—will try to create understanding and accord between the two geographic and ethnic groups in Afghanistan. If this agreement is fulfilled it will decrease hostilities between two major sides on the Afghan political scene.

The other repercussion of the agreement between the Rabbani government and Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami is that from now on Hekmatyar can act as the liaison

between the government and the coalition of the opposition, known as the Coordination Council. Hezb-e Eslami, the Northern Movement, the National Salvation Front, and the Islamic Unity Party are the parties forming this council.

The unity between the Afghan Government and Hekmatyar will tip the political and military balance in favor of Rabbani's government and will give the government a more open hand in negotiating with the other members of the Coordination Council and in a military confrontation with the Taleban Group.

Many analysts are optimistic about the agreement between the Rabbani government and the Hezb-e Eslami and refer to it as a development toward organizing politics in Afghanistan and establishing the grounds for nearing peace.

Iran: Commentary Views Change in Nature of Afghanistan's Conflict

LD1305191896 *Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian* 11 May 96 p 16

[Unattributed political commentary: "A Change in the Nature of Afghanistan's Crisis"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Afghanistan is now on the eve of new political changes. On the one hand, after years of fighting and hostilities, the opposition groups of the government of [President] Borhanoddin Rabbani are negotiating and moving toward an understanding, and on the other, the Pakistani government has changed its policy on Afghanistan and has opened a new chapter in its relations with Afghanistan and welcomed a senior Afghan delegation in Islamabad.

The visit of the Afghan minister of transport to Islamabad and the announcement made by the Pakistani Government on halting activities to complete the reconstruction of a road linking Pakistan to Central Asia through Torghondi [border point between Afghanistan and Turkmenistan] are considered as positive changes in the relations between the two countries. These are changes that can be interpreted as a sign of Pakistan's intention to lessen its support for the Taleban criminal group, the group that was formed initially to overthrow Rabbani's government.

In the recent months, the Taleban group has made certain efforts to reach agreements with Iran. The efforts, which are the signs of the reactionary and weak position of the Taleban group in the current situation, did not get anywhere. However, they are still continuing. [passage omitted]

Those who say the path to stability in Afghanistan lies in the resignation of Rabbani's government are making

a vain and useless demand. Those people either do not care about Afghan society and are superficial friends of the long-suffering people of Afghanistan or they do not have enough information about the dimensions and depth of Afghanistan's political crisis.

Three years have elapsed since the establishment of Rabbani's government. However, during this period none of his opponents and warring groups, who are constantly demanding something, has come up with a logical and comprehensive solution to that country's problem: A solution to ensure the satisfaction of all the ethnic and religious groups in that country. Nevertheless, they have used all their energy and capability to fight and slaughter the innocent people of Afghanistan.

In such a situation, it was obvious from the very beginning that unless a logical and acceptable framework were found and a peace-seeking plan drawn up to be implemented after the resignation of Rabbani, a mere insistence on Rabbani's resignation will show a hostile and motivated intention regarding that country's crisis; an intention that does not in the least help to establish stability and tranquillity in Afghanistan or the welfare of its long-suffering people.

Now, with the changes in Pakistan's policies on Afghanistan, the desperate attempts by the Taleban savage group [to approach] some sources within Iran and finally efforts by Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] for rapprochement with the Kabul government, show the beginning of a new chapter in the painful and sad history of the people of Afghanistan: A new chapter that hopefully will result in ensuring peace and tranquillity for that nation.

Iran: Aqazadeh, Kazakh Oil Minister Discuss Cooperation

LD1205103796 *Tehran IRNA in English*
0723 GMT 12 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 12, IRNA — The visiting Kazakh Oil Minister Nurlan Palghymbayev and his Iranian counterpart Gholam Reza Aqazadeh here Saturday [11 May] reviewed issues related to oil and oil products.

During the meeting, it was decided that Kazakhstan deliver at least two million tons of crude oil to Iran annually, to be refined at Tehran and Tabriz refineries. The deliveries are to begin in the next two months in one of Iran's northern ports. The volume will reach 6 million tons a year in 10 years time.

In return, Iran will deliver the same amount of oil to Kazakhstan at the Persian Gulf after charging the incurring expenses.

According to the agreement, reached by the two ministers, Kazakhstan is to sell some 60,000 tons of gasoil and 60,000 tons of fuel oil to Iran monthly, consequently Iran will enhance its export of the two oil products at the Persian Gulf.

Kazakh Gasoil will be delivered to the Islamic Republic through the Sarakhs railroad, while the fuel oil will be transferred to Iran through the Caspian Sea.

Iran: New Airport To Play 'Key Role' in Ties With Central Asia

LD1305104696 *Tehran IRNA in English*
1023 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sarakhs, Iran-Turkmenistan border, May 13, IRNA — The Almas international airport which was inaugurated Monday [13 May] morning has so far cost over rls. 10,000 million.

The construction of the airport which can accommodate large-bodied airplanes such as Airbus 727 and Topolov, started last February. Construction of three kilometers of its 60-meter wide runway has been completed so far.

Having the capacity to transport three million passengers annually in future, the airport plays a key role in air transportation of the Islamic Republic and its northern neighbors.

Iran: Niyazov on Inauguration of Sarakhs Free Trade Zone

LD1305124796 *Tehran IRNA in English*
1030 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sarakhs, 13 May (IRNA) — Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov here Monday [13 May] said that Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tedzhen railroad will develop the economic situation in Central Asia.

Speaking in the inaugural ceremony of the Sarakhs free trade zone, he added that the project which revives the Silk Road, will promote establishment of peace and tranquility in the whole region.

The implementation of the project in such a short period of time is an indication of the willingness of Iran and Turkmenistan to revive the vital route, the Turkmen president noted.

Iran: Rafsanjani Welcomes Niyazov, Aliyev, Nazarbayev

LD1305091196 *Tehran IRNA in English*
0736 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sarakhs, Iran-Turkmenistan Border, May 13, IRNA — The president and the

heads of state accompanying him, among them President Saparmurat Niyazov of Turkmenistan, President Geydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan and President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan and other dignitaries were given official welcome at Sarkhas's Almas international airport.

Upon arrival the president unveiled the memorial plaque of the airport.

The heads of state then proceeded to the special pavilion at the airport, where special ceremonies are scheduled.

The dignitaries will then travel on train at noon today and will officially inaugurate the project over the Tajan bridge on Iran-Turkmenistan border.

Iran: Afghanistan's Rabbani Arrives for Opening of Railroad

*LD1205171496 Tehran IRNA in English
1632 GMT 12 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mashhad (Khorasan), May 12, IRNA — The Afghan president here today hailed the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan railway project as a blessing for the economic and political security of the whole region.

President Borhanoddin Rabbani, who arrived in this holy city earlier today for the inauguration of the grand project linking Central Asia to the outside world via Iranian sea ports, said the railway network revives the ancient Silk Road.

Rabbani, who was received by his host President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on arrival, congratulated the Iranian government and people on completion of the historic project.

The 295-km railway link, of which 165 kms lie in Iranian territory, is to be officially inaugurated on May 13 in the presence of heads of state of 11 neighbouring countries, and senior officials from forty other world nations.

The ancient city of Sarakhs, which straddles the Iran-Turkmenistan border, has also been equipped with an airfield and a free market by Iran to help boost regional trade.

Iran: Azerbaijan's Aliyev Arrives in Iran, Comments on Railroad

*LD1205125796 Tehran IRNA in English
1220 GMT 12 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., May 12, IRNA — President of the Azerbaijan Republic Heydar Aliyev said here Sunday [12 May] that Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan rail track would be highly ef-

fective in raising the volume of transactions among regional states. Aliyev, who is here to attend the opening ceremony of the rail track, expressed hope that the rail road would be linked to Azerbaijan as well.

Calling Iran and Azerbaijan as two brotherly countries, Aliyev said that he would hold talks with his Iranian counterpart President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on expansion of Tehran-Baku ties. He expressed hope that inauguration of the track would consolidate peace, friendship and understanding among the regional states and other countries.

Iran: Kyrgyz President Arrives for Railroad Opening

*LD1205174196 Tehran IRNA in English
1653 GMT 12 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mashhad (Khorasan), May 12, IRNA — Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev arrived in this holy city today for the May 13 inauguration of the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan railway project.

He was greeted at the airport by Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Heads of state of 11 regional countries and senior officials from 40 world nations will be attending the inauguration of the project designed to link the landlocked Central Asian countries to the outside world.

Iran: Russia's Bolshakov To Attend Tajan-Mashhad Railway Opening

*LD1205110496 Tehran IRNA in English
0810 GMT 12 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, May 12, IRNA/ITAR-TASS/ACSNA — Russian Vice-Premier Aleksey Bolshakov sets out on a tour of Iran and Turkmenistan on Sunday [12 May] as the Russian president's envoy to attend a ceremony to open a Tajan-Mashhad railway which will link those two states. The stimulation of trade-and-economic contacts, cooperation in the use of the Caspian Sea, its mineral and biological resources, and the determination of the legal status of the Caspian Sea are to be discussed during scheduled meetings between Bolshakov and President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani of Iran and President Saparmurat Niyazov of Turkmenistan.

Presidents Heydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan and Eduard Shevardnadze of Georgia are expected to attend activities connected with the opening of the railway. It is not ruled out that Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan will also arrive in Iran.

The leaders of Central Asian states are also to attend the railway opening ceremony. The railway will become

the shortest way to the Persian Gulf for ex-Soviet Central Asian republics. President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan already arrived in Iran on Saturday. During a meeting with journalists, President Askar Akayev of Kyrgyzstan, who leaves for Iran on Sunday at the head of an official delegation, described the forthcoming opening of the railway as an event of historic importance. He said the railway would enable Kyrgyzstan, among other Central Asian states, considerably to intensify trade and economic turnover with near and Middle Eastern countries and in its importance can be likened to the Great Silk Road.

Iran: Tajik President Arrives in Mashhad; Aliyev Leaves for Iran

LD1205104096 *Tehran IRNA in English*
0958 GMT 12 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., May 12, IRNA — Tajik President Emomali Sharipovich Rakhmanov arrived here Sunday morning [12 May] to take part in the inaugural ceremony of Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan railway line scheduled for May 13. Rakhmanov, accompanied by a 27-member high-level delegation, was extended an official welcome by Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Mashhad Airport where the two presidents held a brief talk. The Tajik delegation includes ministers of foreign and economic affairs, state advisor for international affairs and head of the Tajik railway.

Meanwhile, IRNA correspondent from the Azeri capital of Baku, reported that President Heyday Aliyev heading a 30-member delegation left Baku for Iran a short while ago for the inaugural ceremony of the railway track. The Azeri delegation includes a number of high-ranking officials such as Foreign Minister Hasan Hasanov and more than 10 reporters.

Iran: Turkish President Arrives for Railroad Opening

LD1205171996 *Tehran IRNA in English*
1646 GMT 12 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mashhad (Khorasan), May 12, IRNA — Turkish President Suleyman Demirel was greeted on arrival here today by his Iranian Counterpart Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Demirel who is here to take part in the inaugural ceremony of the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan railway, said that it was source of pleasure to see Iran's success in implementing the project linking central asia to the outside world.

Calling the project as a "big success" not only for Iran, but for the region and the whole world, the

Turkish president extended his congratulations to "the great Iranian nation particularly my dear friend and brother (President) Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani over the implementation of the giant project."

He also said that the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan railway will revive the historic Silk Road.

Iran: Uzbek President Arrives for Railway Inauguration

LD1205183596 *Tehran IRNA in English*
1747 GMT 12 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mashhad (Khorasan), May 12, IRNA — President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan here today described the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan railway project as an important landmark in building economic, political and trade relations between the countries of the region.

He told reporters upon arrival at Mashhad airport for the inauguration ceremony of the project, scheduled for tomorrow May 13, that expansion of economic ties will be a factor for the stability of the region.

According to Karimov, Uzbekistan and Iran enjoy a long history of friendship and cooperation, and share cultural and religious commonalities.

The Uzbek president is among 11 heads of state to attend the opening of the railway link, which is being hailed as an important development for world trade.

Iran: Rafsanjani Inaugurates Railway

LD1305104596 *Tehran IRNA in English*
0933 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sarakhs, Iran-Turkmenistan Border, May 13, IRNA — President Akbar hashemi-Rafsanjani in a speech here a short while ago described the completion and inauguration of the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tedzhen railway a great breakthrough and a historic event.

Welcoming the guests gathered here for the historic inauguration of the railway the president said, he is deeply glad with the presence of all the guests in the historic event and revival of the silk road.

"I hope the road will lead to expansion of relations and communications between the nations of the region and the world."

Iran following the guidelines set by the late founder of the Islamic Republic and under the wise leadership of supreme leader Ayatollah Khamene'i strives for serious cooperation with the neighboring friendly countries. Furthermore, the Islamic Republic of Iran attaches great

importance to progress of the region as a whole, he told the guests.

The developments of the past decade and collapse of the former Soviet Union, have created new conditions for expansion of cooperation and transportation network in the region.

President Rafsanjani also thanked the sincere efforts of President Saparmurat Niyazov of Turkmenistan for his part in initiating and completing the track.

The track connects China to Bandar Abbas cutting the distance dramatically and continuation of the track from Tehran to Europe will expand the connection to other parts of the world, he said.

"This is a great breakthrough in transportation of the world," added the president.

Another outstanding step is building of a dam on Tedzhan River, he said adding that all these are gates to a prosperous future for the nations of the region.

The president also awarded the Iranian and Turkmen supervisors of the project with special medals in honor of their great efforts in completing the project.

Iran: Train Departs for Border Carrying Dignitaries

*LD1305135396 Tehran IRNA in English
1218 GMT 13 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sarakhs, Khorasan Prov., May 13, IRNA — The train carrying President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and heads of state and world dignitaries attending the inauguration ceremonies of Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tedzhen railroad, departed for the border crossing on Monday [13 May]. The train will have a short stop at the border point where railroads of Iran and Turkmenistan join together. At the stop point, a memorial plate will be unveiled and then the train will continue its journey on Sarakhs-Tedzhen rail track.

Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tedzhen railroad which revives the ancient Silk Road was officially inaugurated by President Rafsanjani in the presence of the high-ranking guests.

Iran: Ministers Hold Talks With Azerbaijan's Aliyev

*LD1305094696 Tehran IRNA in English
0752 GMT 13 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., May 13, IRNA — Two Iranian ministers here Sunday [12 May] night met with Azeri President Heydar Aliyev who is currently here to attend the inauguration of the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan railway.

In his meeting with Aliyev, Minister of Post, Telegraph and Telephone (PTT) Mohammad Gharazi discussed the connection of Azerbaijan via Iran to the international fiber optics network.

Meanwhile, in a separate meeting held between the Azeri president and the minister of cooperatives and head of the Tehran-Baku joint economic commission, Gholam Reza Shafe'i, the establishment of the Astara-Astara [as received] rail connection was reviewed.

Iran: Georgia, Armenia, Pakistan Praise Completed Rail Project

*LD1305100796 Tehran IRNA in English
0800 GMT 13 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., May 13, IRNA — The presidents of Georgia, Armenia and Pakistan, in separate meetings here Sunday night [12 May] with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, praised the completion of the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan rail project.

Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze appreciated Iran's efforts in promoting the economic development of the newly-independent republics in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

Voicing his country's readiness to further promote ties with the Islamic republic, he urged Iran to support Georgia's membership in the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

Terming Tehran-Tbilisi relations as friendly, President Rafsanjani expressed hope that the implementation of agreements reached by the two countries would accelerate.

Meanwhile, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan announced his country's willingness to expand economic and trade ties with Iran, especially following the inauguration of the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan rail link.

Pakistani President Farooq Ahmad Leghari also called for the implementation of other projects, including the Kerman-Zahedan railway, expressing hope that with the establishment of the Iran-Pakistan rail connection in Sistan and Baluchestan Province, the whole region will experience a dramatic economic boost.

Commenting on the close relations between Tehran and Islamabad, he said he hoped that with the help of Iran, the Afghan crisis would be resolved.

Referring to Pakistan as one of Iran's best friends, President Rafsanjani called for the upgrading of mutual relations.

The Iranian president further welcomed the implementation of Iran's gas pipeline project in Pakistan and underlined the need to establish peace and tranquility in the neighboring Afghanistan.

Iran: Moroccan King's Adviser Attends Railroad Inauguration

LD1305143096 Rabat MAP in English
1307 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 13 (MAP) — Advisor to King Hassan II of Morocco, Abdelhadi Boutaleb has represented the monarch to the inauguration Monday [13 May] of the new railroad connecting the Iranian capital with Central Asian countries.

Boutaleb will also deliver a message from the monarch to the Iranian president.

He arrived Sunday in Tehran from Abu Dhabi where he delivered a message from King Hassan II to the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) president, Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

The international newspaper in Arabic, "ASHARQ AL AWSAT" believes that Boutaleb's visit to Tehran might have as an objective Morocco's mediation in the dispute opposing Iran and the U.A.E. over the Abu Moussa islands occupied by Iran for more than a quarter century.

A Moroccan diplomatic source on Monday told the newspaper that this visit is part of the good relations existing between Morocco and these two Muslim countries. However, diplomatic sources in Rabat did not rule out the possibility of a Moroccan mediation in this crisis.

The same sources drew a link between Boutaleb's trip to these countries and the separate visits recently paid to Fes (200 km east of Rabat) by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Abdulaziz Kacimi, special envoy of Emirati president. The two envoys had conveyed messages from Iranian and Emirati heads of state to the monarch.

The newspaper recalls that Rabat had during the past two years carried out a go-between mission with the aim to settle the Abu Moussa islands crisis.

Iran: Russia's Bolshakov Delivers Yeltsin Message to Rafsanjani

LD1305100896 Tehran IRNA in English
0847 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., May 13, IRNA — Russian President Boris Yeltsin lauded Iran's success in reviving the silk road in a message handed to Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-

Rafsanjani here Sunday [12 May] by Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexey Bolshakov. In his message, the Russian president also called for further deepening of bilateral cooperation and relations.

The Russian deputy prime minister, referring to the geographical location of the two countries, said the littoral countries ringing the Caspian Sea can utilize the sea's resources and reserves once a friendly accord based on mutual understanding is agreed upon by the coastal states. Rafsanjani also pointed to the vast potentials of the two countries, saying that Russia and Iran can expand bilateral ties at a far larger scale. He termed the exploration of the Caspian Sea's resources as one of the important areas for deepening cooperation among littoral states, such as Iran and Russia.

He also called for formulating the Caspian Sea legal regime to pave the way for coastal countries to explore the sea's resources.

Rafsanjani said that Tehran and Moscow should play a more active role in resolving conflicts in Tajikistan, Afghanistan and the Karabakh region. Terming peace and stability as prime factors for regional economic growth, the president stressed that all peace-loving nations should try their best to avoid actions that could shatter the peace.

The Russian deputy prime minister, heading a delegation, arrived here Sunday to attend the inauguration ceremony of the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tedzhen railroad.

Iran: Vice President, Visiting Sudanese Counterpart Hold Talks

LD1305103196 Tehran IRNA in English
0900 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., May 13, IRNA — First Vice-President Hasan Habibi said here Sunday [12 May] that the successful implementation of the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tedzhen railway project proved that Third World countries can act independently despite the obstructions created by U.S.-led imperialism, adding that great steps in the field of development can be taken without having to rely on colonial powers.

Making the remark in a meeting with his Sudanese counterpart Muhammad Salih, the vice-president said this success can serve as a constructive example for all the countries that are moving towards development and for which the U.S. creates obstacles.

Mentioning that competent manpower, sufficient primary materials and favorable market conditions exist in Islamic countries and the Third World, Habibi stressed

that Islamic economies should be boosted through the expansion of ties and further cooperation.

He underlined that Islamic countries are duty-bound to thwart the conspiracies hatched by the enemies of Islam, by forging closer unity and by reviving and developing Islamic culture and civilization.

Praising the revival of the Silk Route, Muhammad Salih said that Tehran has taken a great step towards consolidating regional relations with the world.

He expressed satisfaction over the fact that an Islamic country has been successful despite being a target of U.S. and Zionist propaganda and aggression.

Iran: President Discusses Regional Issues With Rakhmanov

*LD1205205596 Tehran IRNA in English
2046 GMT 12 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mashhad (Khorasan), May 12, IRNA — President Emomali Rakhmanov of Tajikistan in his meeting with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan railway project as "a major development in the history of the region and the world."

Rakhmanov, who arrived in this holy city earlier on Sunday [12 May], appreciated Iran's relief assistance to his country and efforts to defuse the crisis in Tajikistan involving the government and opposition forces.

He briefed Rafsanjani on the latest political developments in Tajikistan, and requested Iran not to spare any efforts in helping resolve the crisis.

The Iranian and the Tajik people share a common language, culture and history, said Rakhmanov, calling for expansion of bilateral ties.

President Rafsanjani said the cultural and lingual commonalities between the two countries could serve as a strong base for promotion of Iran-Tajikistan cooperation.

He told his Tajik counterpart that war and conflict in Tajikistan have no result other than the loss in men and material, and that the differences should be solved at the negotiating table.

He expressed regret over the recent unsavoury events in that country, and said that such incidents would disturb peace and tranquility and waste the economic potentials.

Rafsanjani announced Iran's readiness to help remove the tensions in the interests of regional stability.

He told Rakhmanov that soon a team of Iranian experts would be sent to Dushanbe to study cooperation in economic and industrial projects.

Iran: Turkish President Welcomes Opening of Rail Line

*LD1305104496 Tehran IRNA in English
0955 GMT 13 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sarakhs, Iran-Turkmenistan border, May 13, IRNA — Turkish President Suleyman Demirel in a speech at the opening ceremony of the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tedzhen railway line here on Monday [13 May] thanked President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani of Iran and President Saparmurad Niyazov of Turkmenistan for the outstanding and remarkable task of reviving the silk road.

Demirel termed the occasion as an exciting and historical moment and said he was happy to witness the great event.

"A historical legend is revived today," said the Turkish president adding that the silk road is not merely a road but story of embracing of nations.

The Turkish president also said that the great project was a clear example of cooperation between the two neighboring nations. He called upon all nations to follow suit and promote cooperation among themselves.

Iran: Rafsanjani Heads Back to Tehran After Railway Inauguration

*LD1305181596 Tehran IRNA in English
1726 GMT 13 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 13, IRNA — President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, left Mashhad for Tehran on Monday night [13 May] after inaugurating the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tedzhen railroad link and the Sarakhs free trade and industrial zone.

The ceremonies inaugurating the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tedzhen railroad project had been attended by presidents of Turkey, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan and high-ranking officials of over 50 countries of the world and Tehran-based ambassadors.

President Rafsanjani was seen off by the first vice-president, Hasan Habibi and a number of ministers.

Iran: Report Details Work on Mashhad-Sarakhs Railroad

LD1205122696 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 12 May 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Let me draw your attention to a report about the construction of the Golden Axis [as heard] railroad.

The operational work on the Mashhad-Sarakhs railroad project — as an essential link in the Iranian national railroad network — began in 1371 [year beginning 21 March 1992]. The work on constructing the foundations of the route and its stations was carried out with the cooperation of reputable Iranian contractors.

The volume of the earth removal operations for the project was 21 million cubic meters. This work was carried out in accordance with technical plans and designs. The concrete laying operations for the Mashhad-Sarakhs railroad was carried out in a variety of climatic conditions and in difficult terrain. All the different stages of the concrete work were carried out under the supervision of experienced technicians and with thorough quality controls.

For the manufacture of the ballast, well equipped workshops were established next to Azeri [type of] stone mines in the region. A volume of 460,000 cubic meters of ballast, with dimensions ranging from 20 to 60 millimeters, were used at various stages of the rail laying operations.

The main work on the superstructural operations of the project was carried out using pre-pressed concrete transverses. In total, 340,000 concrete transverses were used on the Mashhad-Sarakhs railroad. Wooden transverses were also used in the superstructural work.

The rail type is of the (?UIC-60) variety and the weight of each meter of it is 60 kilograms. Passenger trains can travel at a speed of 120 km per hour and goods trains up to a speed of 80 km per hour on this route.

The Mashhad-Sarakhs railroad branches off at Fariman station, along the current Tehran-Mashhad railroad, and, after crossing a distance of 165 km, arrives at the border town of Sarakhs in the northeast of Khorasan Province. Ninety four kilometers of the Mashhad-Sarakhs railroad passes through fields, 29 kilometers passes through hilly terrain and 42 kilometers through mountainous terrain. Eight stations, with a total area of 13,500 square meters, have been foreseen for the route. The two stations of Martyr Motahari and Sarakhs are larger than the other ones.

Along its route, the Mashhad-Sarakhs railroad passes through three tunnels, with a total length of 5,900 meters. The biggest tunnel is about 2,600 meters in length. Fifteen concrete bridges have been constructed over valleys and rivers along the route, with a total length of 2,700 meters. [passage omitted]

Iran: Sarakhs-Tajan Railway To Promote 'Cultural Interaction'

LD1305094296 *Tehran IRNA in English*
0755 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mashhad, May 13, IRNA — The Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan railway, reviving the ancient silk road, among other things will promote cultural interaction among the regional nations. The railway is expected to handle about one million passengers a year in the region.

Special measures have been taken to accomodate the travellers. The historical sites of the ancient silk road along the route will be opened or rehabilitated, said head of the province's cultural heritage organization, Zabihollah Kholosi, here today.

He added that one of such sites is the Robat Sharaf, 40 km from Sarakhs. Kholosi said that construction work on the grand museum of Mashhad will start next year with the idea of introducing Iranian culture, art and tradition to the people of the region.

The official said that the organization will seriously become engaged in rehabilitating, renovating and opening numerous historical sites of the province, recreation centers and natural parks to incoming tourists.

Iran: Commentary on Significance of Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan Railway

NC1305083196 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*
0345 GMT 13 May 96

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Unit]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a few hours the largest project linking the continent of Asia will be inaugurated in the presence of the leaders and high-ranking officials from over 50 countries. The project marks the revival of the historic Silk Route.

The international significance of this project, which creates the possibility of linking Europe and southern Asia through the Iranian railway and offers the chance of extensive trade outside the region, has made Mashhad and Sarakhs the focal point of world attention. Many foreign correspondents are in northeast Iran to cover this great event.

The cultural, economic, and political aspects of the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan Railway affect all the nations in the region and in Asia. Culturally, experts believe that this railway—situated on the historic Silk Route—grants a new face to relations among Asian and European

countries and the 500,000 to 1 million passengers who will use the railway each year will help the effort to get to know the culture and civilization of the regional countries and strengthen their historic ties.

This comes after a period in which the Silk Route declined and, in the past 70 years, regional nations had fewer contacts because of political considerations and conditions. In relation with this the restoration of historic monuments along the Silk Route, particularly in our country, has started. This will play a significant role in increasing tourism, in increasing relations among Asian nations, and in bringing world attention to this part of Asia.

Economically, it is very difficult to calculate the profits of the Mashhad-Tajan Railway because this railway has a definite impact on all commercial transactions and in gaining access to the region's valuable oil and gas resources, which are put at 150 billion barrels of oil and 70 trillion cubic meters of [natural] gas. The emergence of the Central Asian countries from an impasse in geographic trade and the possibility of gaining access to Persian Gulf warm water is another development fulfilling these countries' dreams.

Economic needs made the Silk Route the largest trade route in the world for thousands of years. Now, by using new routes, the existing railway networks in Iran and Central Asia will again form one of the world's most sensitive routes.

Naturally, following on from the cultural and economic significance of this route, its political importance will emerge and will lead to constructive mutual talks and further friendship among nations and governments. It will also pave the way for cooperation among nations on important international issues. These links, which can now be seen with the presence of the heads of various countries in Mashhad and with the numerous talks between President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the heads of other regional countries, constitute a turning point for political and economic links in Central Asia and in Asia in general. This is why every head of state attending today's ceremony has expressed happiness and gratitude at the construction of the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan Railway, highlighting the significance of the railway for their country, the region, and the rest of the world.

The implementation of this immense project again highlights Iran's international significance in all the political, economic, and cultural fields because it clearly shows that Iran is the crossroads linking the world and linking the regional countries with one another. It also shows that Iran is interested in expanding economic, cultural, and political ties with neighboring countries

and other areas, that it has the technical potential, political stability, and economic security needed to complete this immense project even before the deadline, and that it can prove its indubitable international role.

Iran: IRNA Sums Up Foreign Media Reports on New Railway Link

*LD1305182396 Tehran IRNA in English
1722 GMT 13 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 13, IRNA — Inauguration of Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tedzhen railroad link had a wide repercussion in the region's mass media apparatus.

DRIS daily published in Kabul hinted at the participation of Afghan President Rabbani in the largest gathering of the leaders of Asian countries and the Mediterranean to open the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tedzhen railroad linking Central Asia and China via Iran to Europe and South Asia.

The newspaper wrote this gathering paves a favorable ground for easing regional tension and establishment of peace and brotherhood across Asia.

According to the daily the railroad project will thwart the U.S. economic embargo against Iran.

Kabul's radio and television also gave wide coverage to this significant economic event in Iran and the region in Dari, Persian and Pashto on Sunday [12 May] and Monday, limelighting the strategic significance of the project in promoting the regional economy and strengthening of friendships.

The French television network, LCN, said on Monday that 700 years after Marco Polo, Iran wants to be the region's Byzantium.

The broadcast said for the establishment of the open door policy, Iran has created a free trade zone in its border with Turkey and built an airport and a 320 room hotel.

This project, according to the French television account, for the first time provides access to China and the Mediterranean Sea through ten years of unceasing work and one billion dollars of investment.

IZVESTIYA published in Moscow described the inauguration of Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tedzhen link as a daring enterprise launched by Iran aimed at creating a fundamental change in the region's transportation infrastructure.

The daily wrote that opening of the railroad track provides the ground for enormous regional cooperation, specially transfer of oil and gas of the Central Asia to

Europe via Iran, saving 30 percent for the transportation cost for China, Central Asia, Turkey and Europe.

Radio Baku described the inauguration of the railroad link as the revival of the ancient silk route.

Radio and television of the Azerbaijan Republic termed the opening of the giant project as the closest path between the Orient and the Occident.

The marked Russian journalist, Mikhail Trokhin branded the construction of Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tedzhen railroad track as a great service to humanity.

A senior Russian diplomat, Nikolay Kapushin, said the railroad project is a new road linking east and west.

First vice-president of Kazakhstan said Iran is the best route linking east and west.

Turkmen president, Saparmurad Niyazov, said here Monday that Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tedzhen railroad will develop the economic strength in Central Asia.

A senior Malaysian official, Ali Rostan, told IRNA here that the railroad project will open a new chapter in trade relations between China, Southeast Asia and Malaysia with the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Iran: President Attends Dam Building Operations in Sarakhs

*LD1305135296 Tehran IRNA in English
1212 GMT 13 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sarakhs, Khorasan Prov., May 13, IRNA — Operations were launched here Monday [13 May] for building Pol-e Khatoun reservoir dam over the River Harirud on Iran-Turkmenistan border in the presence of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani simultaneously with the inauguration of Sarakhs free trade zone.

The reservoir dam is being jointly built by Iran and Turkmenistan. Given the amount of investments made by the two countries, Iran shares 60 percent of the water reserves of the dam while Turkmenistan shares the remaining 40 percent.

The total investment for the project, also including Dolat-Abad diversion dam, is estimated at rls. 300 billion and its completion would take five years.

Once operational, the dam will not only generate electricity but will also provide irrigation water for 25,000 hectares of farmlands in Sarakhs and fresh water for the holy city of Mashhad in Khorasan Province.

Nepal & Bhutan

Bhutan: Government Forces Citizens To Sign 'Migration' Forms

*BK1405094196 Kathmandu THE KATHMANDU
POST in English 13 May 96*

[Report by "a POST reporter" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kathmandu, May 12 — In what may be a fresh bid to evict its citizens from their homeland, the government of Bhutan forced its citizens to sign "voluntary migration" forms recently, a Bhutanese human rights organization said. "The people who were forced to sign the so called voluntary migration papers were also asked at gunpoint to pose smiling before video cameras after signing," said the Thimphu-based Human Rights and Environmental Network (HUREN), which also has branch offices in Kathmandu and several parts of India.

Bhutanese authorities have already seized the citizenship cards of thousands of its Nepali-speaking populace who are camped as refugees in Jhapa and Morang districts in eastern Nepal for the past six years.

Meanwhile, the government of Bhutan has also launched a new tactic to curb the increasing human rights activities in areas bordering with India. According to HUREN, scores of people are hired everyday from remote parts of the country to work as "volunteers" in Indo-Bhutan borders. The task of these "volunteers" is to block any attempts by the refugees to enter the country.

"These volunteers are compelled to reach the duty areas, even if it means walking 2-3 days from their homes," HUREN said. "Lodging and fooding too should be arranged by themselves."

Some farmers recently requested the authority to call them to the duty any other time as it was the time for vegetable and corn farming. But the authority declined, threatening capital punishment or deportation, HUREN claimed. "The volunteers are supposed to keep close vigil of the refugees, and capture and hand them to the police if they crossed the Bhutanese border."

It may be recalled that some groups of Bhutanese refugees had attempted peace march to their homeland from the refugee camps in Nepal few months back, but Indian authorities blocked and arrested them. Many of them were continually detained in different jails despite the courts order which termed the detention "unconstitutional". Hearing on a number of detainees in Berhampur, Jalpaiguri and Siliguri jails is still pending.

The Appeal Movement Coordination Council (AMCC), which coordinated the refugees' peace march to Bhutan,

said recently that the walk would be resumed again. AMCC said the walk this time would begin from any point in India at any comfortable time.

The peace march was temporarily halted from April 16, hoping that Nepal-Bhutan foreign ministerial-level talks might yield some breakthrough.

But the talks, which was the seventh round between the two countries since 1992, failed to resolve the problem.

Nearly 90,000 Bhutanese refugees, mostly Nepali-speaking and partly ethnic Drukpas, are currently camped in Jhapa and Morang.

Pakistan

Pakistan: Interior Minister Reports Threat Against UN Envoy, Nawaz

BK1305124796 Islamabad THE NEWS in English
13 May 96 pp 1, 9

[Report by Tariq Butt—quotation marks as published]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Nasirullah Babar disclosed Sunday that the government had received reports from intelligence sources about probable attempts on the lives of UN special envoy Mahmoud Mestiri, leader of the opposition Nawaz Sharif and some other leaders.

On the receipt of such reports, the government tightened security for the protection of these persons," he told the National Assembly and newsmen in an informal chat.

Babar said the report about the possible attempt on Mestiri had been received from the UN and various other sources. When we got them, we conveyed it to all the concerned persons."

He said somebody in the government got a call at 2.30 am one morning about the possible threat to Nawaz Sharif's life, and we immediately informed Sartaj Aziz about it and told him that the government is beefing up the security of the opposition leader. "Now we are looking for suspects."

The report was that Sharif and senior Punjab minister Mushtaq Awan would be killed at their residences, Babar further disclosed. There was no need to tighten official security for Awan because he already has government security at his house.

Speaking on a call attention notice about the reported warning of secret agencies regarding terrorist attacks in Islamabad at the end of May, he said this report was not confined to the federal capital. Asked about the inclusion of his own name among the persons threatened, he said, "my name figures on every such list."

The minister said the government had taken appropriate measures to check any act of terrorism or possible attack on key figures. He said intelligence agencies were working efficiently and that was why in a short span of six months terrorism in Karachi had been eliminated. He hoped that terrorism would be brought under control in Punjab in the next couple of weeks.

Babar said the information from the Egyptian government about a possible attack on its mission was not received in time, and additionally, its message, cautioning about the attack, was generally meant for the whole world and not specifically for Pakistan.

He said a British team was nowadays in Karachi and had met senior officials to gather more information about Altaf Hussain in wake of the documentary evidence given to London by Islamabad against the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] founder. We will present our case against Hussain before the team when it will meet us in Islamabad."

About the MQM-called strike in Karachi on Sunday, the minister said it had "failed," as vehicular traffic had continued in many areas, and even those areas which had been affected by previous strike calls appeared normal. He said nobody had "won or lost" in Karachi, and what the government had done was that it had taken steps to restore normalcy.

He said the stock exchange remained open on Sunday, which was a big proof that the strike had fizzled out, and there was no untoward incident in central district where 50 per cent of the traffic was seen plying.

"According to the mandate given to us, we have solved the law and order problem. It were the people living in Karachi who had founded Pakistan and rendered immense sacrifices," he said, adding that people living in Punjab or NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] had not given so many sacrifices for independence.

To a question, he said that mobile telephone and paging services would not be suspended in Lahore, and these facilities will not be restored in Karachi." However, the government was considering restarting pay phone in the Sindh metropolis, he said, adding that the federal cabinet would take a decision to this effect in its next meeting. "We will consider lifting the ban on pay phones because public call offices operating there serve the same purpose."

About the culprits involved in the Sheikhpura bus blast, the interior minister said the government had got some clue about them. He said it had come to know that the terrorists had come on a motorcycle. He was of the view that the law and order situation was not very bad in Puruab.

Babar said the government had asked eye-witnesses to help experts in drawing the sketches of terrorists who had carried out the bus blast. He said the government was fully capable of containing any disturbance and there was no need of hiring any private security.

Pakistan: UN Envoy on Afghanistan Meets With Foreign Secretary

BK1305135796 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Special representative of the UN Secretary General on Afghanistan, Mahmoud Mestiri, arrived in Islamabad today from Afghanistan as part of his shuttle diplomacy to achieve consensus formula for peace in Afghanistan. The visit of Mr. Mestiri assumed added importance after the eight-member Afghan delegation's recent visit to Pakistan. Ambassador Mahmoud Mestiri met the foreign secretary, Mr. Najmuddin A. Sheikh, and discussed the current situation in Afghanistan. Ambassador Mestiri briefed the foreign secretary about his meetings with Professor Rabbani, General Dostam, and other Afghan leaders for carrying forward the peace process. The foreign secretary expressed Pakistan's continued support for United Nations' efforts in reaching a durable settlement to the Afghan crisis. Mr. Mestiri appreciated Pakistan's positive role and welcomed Pakistan's support to United Nations efforts to bring the various factions together.

Pakistan: Politician on Progress in Afghan Talks

LD1305095196 Tehran IRNA in English 0842 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, May 13, IRNA — There is a substantial progress in the ongoing talks between the Afghan government and opposition Hezb-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan (HIA) of Golboddin Hekmatyar. This was stated by Pakistani senator Qazi Hussain Ahmad here on Sunday evening talking to newsmen on his return from Afghanistan. Qazi said, "I have mediated between the two sides and assisted them in their negotiations which have been taking place for several months." Senator Qazi who also heads a religio-political party, Jamiat-i-Islami (JI) recently twice visited the war-ravaged Afghanistan to mediate between the President Rabbani government and HIA chief Golboddin Hekmatyar.

The JI chief said talks between the Afghan government and HIA are moving towards success. However, the HIA is trying to take its allied groups in the supreme coordination council into confidence, he said.

Another report says that a high level delegation of the four-party opposition combination is leaving Peshawar

for Afghanistan in the next couple of days to held talks with two main opposition leaders General Rashid Dostam and Karim Khalili.

The Supreme Coordination Council is comprised of National Islamic Movement of General Dostam, National Liberation Front of Sebgatollah Mojaddedi, Hezb-e Wahdat [Unity Party], headed by Karim Khalili and Hezb-e Eslami of Hekmatyar. The team is to discuss with Dostam and Khalili outcome of the meetings held between Afghan government and the HIA during the past two months.

Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmad said that he will put a proposal in the forthcoming meeting of the National Unity Council (which comprises of all religio-political parties in Pakistan) for sending a delegation to the Taleban militia persuading them to enter into a dialog with the Afghan government and other factions.

Meanwhile, leader of the U.N. special mission to Afghanistan ambassador Mahmoud Mestiri is due in Islamabad Monday for talks with the Pakistani officials on the Afghan issue.

Pakistan: Senator Reports 'Substantial Progress' in Afghan Talks

BK1305133896 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 May 96 p 12

[PPI report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD—Amir Jamaate-Islami (JI) Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmad on Sunday said there is a substantial progress in the ongoing talks between the Afghan government and the opposition Hezb-e-Islami Afghanistan (HIA) Hekmatyar group.

"I have mediated between the two sides and assisted them in their negotiation which have been taking place for several months", Qazi told reporters here on his return from Afghanistan.

The Jamaat chief twice visited the war-ravaged country to mediate between the President Rabbani government and rival Hezb-e-Islami, headed by former Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar.

He said talks between the Afghan government and HIA are moving towards success, however, the Hezb-e-Islami is trying to take its allied groups in the Supreme Coordination Council. The Supreme Coordination comprised Jonbesh-e-Melli of General Rashid Dostam, Jabha-e-Nujat-e-Milli of Prof Sibghatullah Mujaddadi and Hezb-e-Wahdat, headed by Karim Khalili. The Jamaat chief told reporters that he has returned to

the country to float a proposal in the forthcoming meeting of the Milli Yekjehti Council (MYC) for sending a delegation to the Taleban militia persuading them to enter into a dialogue with the Afghan government and other factions.

He said Maulana Fazlur Rehman and Maulana Samiul Haq have influence among the Taleban and hoped that their efforts will help in restoring peace in Afghanistan.

To a question Qazi Hussain Ahmad said his peace offense have nothing to do with the government of Pakistan. He added that the foreign minister must tell the nation as to what were Pakistan's differences with Afghanistan. Our government's attitude towards Afghanistan has paved way for India to India to strengthen its contacts with Afghanistan.

He said Afghan leaders are desirous to have good and brotherly relations with Pakistan. To another question he said during his stay he held talks with President Rabbani, Golboddin Hekmatyar, 'Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, 'Abdol Rasul Sayyaf and other Afghan leaders and all wanted peaceful settlements of the crisis in their country.

Meanwhile leader of the UN special mission to Afghanistan Ambassador Mahmoud Mestiri is arriving here today (Monday) for talks with Pakistani officials on the Afghan issue.

Mestiri will meet Foreign Secretary Najmuddin A. Sheikh here and exchange views with him in various fates of the Afghan issue with particular reference to the efforts being made by the special mission to restore peace in Afghanistan", Ambassador Mestiri's senior political advisor Dr. Al-Sadiq Abu Nafeesa told PPI here on Sunday.

It may be recalled that Ambassador Mestiri, who has shifted his headquarters to Jalalabad, is currently holding talks with the Afghan leaders to find out ways for establishment of a lasting peace in Afghanistan.

Pakistan: U.S. 'Partisan' Policy on Afghanistan Noted

BK1305141296 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 12 May 96 p 6

[Editorial: "Parameters of Afghan Policy"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The renewed US interest in the Afghan peace process promises an early breakthrough in the hardy tangle. Assistant Secretary of State [for South Asia], Robin Raphel, while testifying before the Senate foreign relations subcommittee on Near East and South Asia, has laid out the broad parameters of a strategy which envisages securing a ceasefire, cobbling

together a neutral security apparatus, demilitarizing Kabul, setting up an interim governing arrangement and planning for a permanent form of government. She has extended support to special UN envoy Mehmod Mestiri's endeavors to bring about reconciliation among various factions and to persuade them to agree to a negotiated settlement. However, her contention that "Afghanistan has become a conduit for drugs, crime and terrorism that can undermine Pakistan...." needs to be taken with a pinch of salt. It can be asserted without fear of contradiction that the training camps she has mentioned in her testimony as well as their perceived contribution to the "Islamic militancy" are a direct consequence of Washington's Afghan policy in the 1980s.

The spurt in American diplomatic activity since Senator Hank Brown's brief ground-preparing Kabul visit in the second week of April signals urgency for a settlement. In his 36-hour sojourn in the war-ravaged country, he had held talks with key players in Afghanistan to gain a correct perspective on the prevailing situation. Ms Robin Raphel's visit later had taken the process further and apparently yielded encouraging results. The current Afghan tangle stems essentially from President Rabbani's refusal to step down following expiry of his term of office in June 1994 in keeping with the Islamabad Accords. The ensuing power struggle has since encouraged involvement of the regional players into the internecine conflict, dimming prospects of an early resolution. In fact Afghanistan has been turned into an arena for a vicious proxy war that has bled the country into moribund state. The Indo-Russian involvement in the civil war has further complicated things. Similarly, the American sponsored factions have played a significant role in pushing the country to the brink of a precipice. The torching of the Pakistan embassy at Kabul can be viewed as a sort of backlash. It should have become clear to all the factions (and their sponsors) by now that only a just settlement can herald a durable peace in the area. Pitting factions against one another and fomenting strife to gain strategic benefit is an approach that is riddled with pitfalls. The factors of regional instability and strife which Ms. Robin Raphel has listed have essentially flown from a partisan American policy. But it is never too late to make amends.

Pakistan: Bhutto on Relations With Israel, Nuclear Program

JN1405105096 London AL-WASAT in Arabic
13-19 May 96 pp 32-34

[Interview with Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto by Zaki Shihab in Islamabad; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Shihab] You will visit Syria at a time when the peace process between the Arabs and Israel is passing through difficult complications. What is your position regarding this subject?

[Bhutto] Our position on the peace process is well known. We welcomed the steps made in this direction so far, and said that the agreements signed so far are important steps, whether it is the agreement signed between Jordan and Israel or the PLO agreement with Israel. Undoubtedly, the success of the Middle East peace process should take into consideration the resolutions adopted unanimously by the Security Council and which were called for by the international community, whether these resolutions deal with Lebanon, Syria, or Palestine.

[Shihab] Following the agreements signed between Israel and both the PLO and Jordan, a number of Arab and Islamic states hurried to begin contacts with Israel to establish relations of cooperation with it. What is Pakistan's position on this subject?

[Bhutto] As I said, we welcomed the peace process and the agreements signed between the concerned parties, but I still feel that it is not in the interest of the Islamic world and even the PLO and the Arab states to embark on such steps before the pending problems with Israel are resolved. Any decision on relations and cooperation with Israel should take into consideration the approval of the member states of the Organization of Islamic Conference. [passage omitted]

[Shihab] The Western governments view with concern the armament programs in Pakistan and India. How do you justify this?

[Bhutto] We appreciate the international community's concern about stability in our region following the increase in tension, but I want to explain an important point: Without reaching a lasting and comprehensive solution to the problem in Kashmir, stability in the region will be difficult to attain especially with the continued violation of human rights, acts of violence, and India's refusal to implement the international resolutions on this subject. All these are factors that perpetuate tension. The responsibility for the arms race is shouldered by India, since Pakistan has no choice to maintain balance in the region other than entrenching its defenses and de-

veloping its military capability. We ask why does the international community refrain from questioning India about the reasons for developing long-range missiles and missiles that carry nuclear heads at a time when India deliberately ignores our calls to place the nuclear programs of the two countries under international inspection? [passage omitted]

[Shihab] How do you explain the criticism of Pakistan by Washington concerning the Pakistani nuclear program? How far has your government succeeded in assuring the United States about your intentions in this regard?

[Bhutto] Pakistan continues to believe in the call for restricting nuclear proliferation and works to implement the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in southern Asia. Our numerous proposals calling for a region free of nuclear weapons under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency prove this position. The Indian rejection of these proposals blocks an agreement on this subject. Our nuclear program is designed for peaceful objectives. However, we cannot ignore what India is doing, especially the continuation of its nuclear program to manufacture missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads. Our information indicates that India intends to carry out another nuclear test and intends to test an advanced type of a long-range missile. We will not keep our hands tied on this issue.

Pakistan: U.S. Sanction Decision on China Not To Affect F-16 Sale

BK1305151996 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
12 May 96 pp 1,11

[Article by Aroosa Alam]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD, May 11 — Though the USA has decided not to slam sanctions on China over the issue of supply of ring magnets to Pakistan, the status of Pakistan over the complete implementation of Brown Amendment will remain unchanged. The held up clauses of the Brown Amendment will be subjected to those clauses which put certain restrictions over Overseas Pakistanis Investment Corporation (OPIC) and military training facilities to Pakistan under the Symington law.

Official sources in Foreign Office commented on Saturday afternoon that the status of the Brown Law will not change with the new development of US bailing China out of non-proliferation issue.

"We will continue to negotiate with US over the issue of return of the money Pakistan has paid for 28 F-16s," said a competent source. He said that Pakistan will also assist US closely over the possibilities of getting away

with the restrictions barring US business community to make investments in Pakistan and depriving Pakistan army to have access to the new military technologies in the shape of extensive military trainings in US.

According to these sources, the two embargoes which have been effective under the Symington Amendment have by and large hampered the US interest without hurting Pakistan much. A large number of powerful business community is striving hard to make investment in Pakistan envisaging it to be a gate way to the lucrative markets of Central Asia.

On the other hand US Defence Department feels that due to the stoppage of military trainings of Pakistan army in US, it has lost touch with Pakistan army and the military concepts and trends of military strategies in South Asia and adjacent region once hostile to it.

Pakistan: Chinese Question Source of Ring Magnet Allegations

BK1305151496 Islamabad THE NATION in English 12 May 96 p 1

[Article by Khalid Hasan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] WASHINGTON - How did the United States deduce that Pakistan had received supply of ring magnets from China for one of its unsafeguarded nuclear facilities?

Both Pakistan and China have continued to deny that any transfer took place of what the Americans call custom-made ring magnets for use in centrifuges that enrich uranium. But the CIA and now the US Administration itself maintain that they possess evidence that belie these denials, although this evidence has never been shown or made public.

Efforts to determine the precise nature of evidence in possession of the United States Government increasingly point to the presence of what is known as 'humint' in the spying business, meaning human intelligence. Whether such a source concocted this information for its paymaster or merely confirmed US suspicions, there seems to be no question that the Americans have relied on non-technical means.

Had the alleged US evidence been in the form of satellite photographs, for instance, it would have been shown, at least to Pakistan which has consistently denied receiving any such supplies from China. No such thing was done, despite Pakistan having demanded all along that it be shown the evidence on the basis of which the US was making the ring magnet accusation.

Michael Kreppon, head of the Stimson Centre, a Washington think-tank with special interest in South Asian

and nuclear issues, who is well in with the nuclear and State Department establishments and is a known proponent of non-proliferation told this correspondent when asked about the nature of the evidence that the United States possessed that it was "so highly sensitive" that it could not be shown otherwise it would compromise the source.

Most countries finding themselves in such a situation would leave no stone unturned unless the mole had been identified and taken out. "When the chips are down, everyone but everyone is a suspect unless cleared," a retired defense official with the experience of working in an intelligence establishment told THE NATION.

Pakistan: Security Review Urged After Ring Magnet Issue

BK1405003696 Islamabad THE NATION in English 13 May 96 p 14

[Editorial: "Ring Magnets Controversy"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Though the US has decided to drop the threat of economic sanctions against China for the alleged transfer of ring magnets to Pakistan, and also given up the idea of placing additional sanctions on this country for violating the US laws concerning nuclear non-proliferation, the Americans are still said to firmly believe that the transfer actually took place. Nonetheless, the implementation of the Brown Amendment is also underway which means the alleged transfer is not deemed serious enough a violation of the US laws as to warrant stoppage of arms shipments that the Amendment authorises. The US firms desirous of doing business with this country, however, will have to do without the usual concessional insurance coverage. That though may have only a symbolic value rather than any serious intent at penalizing Pakistan. All of this, however, assumes secondary importance in view of the reports that despite the consistent denial by both China and Pakistan that the alleged transfer of the ring magnets ever took place, the Americans insist on the validity of their information with a lot of confidence. That makes one to wonder what makes them so sure? The possibility of satellite intelligence is ruled out in view of the reports that no photos have been used to confront the two countries accused of involvement in the transfer of nuclear-related material. That leads one to the obvious conclusion that whatever evidence the American claim to have obtained, has come through human intelligence, most probably based within the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission.

Regardless of the controversy as to whether the information that the US claims to have is authentic or not,

it has surely raised disturbing questions about the security of our nuclear program. In view of the fact that some of the Energy Commission's top officials are often seen mingling with diplomats from the US and some other countries, which practice as per government rules is prohibited, it would not be all that surprising to find that the Americans actually have active access channels to reach those who are in charge of the nation's nuclear program. There may be an even more frightening possibility of Dr Abdul Qadeer's establishment being vulnerable to Indian intelligence agencies' spying. The episode should serve as an eye opener for the Government of Pakistan. A thorough probe needs to be conducted into it to uncover the weak spots in our national security before it is too late.

Pakistan: Bhutto Rules Out Change in Punjab Leadership

*BK1305131996 Islamabad THE NEWS in English
13 May 96 pp 1, 9*

[Report by Raja Zulfikar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD: After Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto chaired a series of meetings here Sunday, official sources put an end to the speculation, categorically ruling out chances of any change in the Punjab setup or elsewhere.

The official version followed a top level session in the Prime Minister House Sunday in which governors of Sindh and Balochistan were the main participants. Chairman Kashmir Committee Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan also attended the meeting in addition to holding a separate session with the prime minister.

"The agenda included general law and order situation in the country and the recent wave of terrorism hitting Punjab. Additionally, the Kashmir issue, particularly after the crushing defeat of Congress in India's general elections, was another subject," an official said in his comment.

Informed sources said the prime minister made it clear that there was no truth in reports that the leadership in Punjab was likely to be changed. The meeting felt that it was part of the disinformation campaign," the official remarked.

Sindh Governor Kamal Azfar briefed the prime minister on the Law and order and order situation in Karachi and said the uncalled for MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] strike was again rejected by the people.

During the meeting, Chairman Kashmir Committee Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan was also present and the three took a general view of the prevailing law and order situation.

The prime minister later held a detailed meeting with the Nawabzada where Kashmir issue came under specific discussion. The two, sources said, discussed the Kashmir situation with reference to the changing political scenario in New Delhi after the debacle of Congress I in general elections.

Both the leaders didn't rule out involvement of foreign hand in the recent terrorist activities in Punjab. Sources said the two discussed the development work in entirety. A similar discussion was held when several members of the National Assembly called on Ms Bhutto during the day.

An official spokesman quoted the prime minister as saying that development work was on top of the agenda of the government which was committed to solving the people's problems.

The MNAs [Members of National Assembly] who met the prime minister separately informed her of the development works in their respective constituencies. They also requested her to increase funds for more development schemes. The prime minister reportedly directed the MNAs to pay attention to solving problems facing their voters.

Pakistan: Law Enforcement Agencies on Alert Following Punjab Bombings

*BK1305132196 Islamabad THE NEWS in English
13 May 96 p 9*

[Report by Rana Mubashir]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD: Homicide machination against the PML [Pakistan Muslim League] chief Nawaz Sharif and Punjab senior minister Mushtaq Awan of PPP [Pakistan People's Party] and a series of bomb explosions in the Punjab have put the law-enforcing agencies on alert.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto recently chaired a high-level meeting on the law and order situation in the country with particular reference to the Punjab.

It was decided in the meeting that the law-enforcers will be deployed in plain clothes at bus stops, airports and other public places to avert terrorist acts. They will be equipped with sophisticated weapons and the most modern communication gadgets.

The law-enforcing officials are already searching suspicious luggage and making body scours at the bus stops and where ever necessary, highly placed sources in the Interior Ministry disclosed.

The stepped up security checks have been necessitated in the wake of various terrorist strikes in the Punjab.

The first bomb blast occurred at Shaukat Khanum Memorial Hospital on April 14, killing six people and injuring 30. The second explosion took place on April 24, at Kahna Police Station bringing down the roof of the building to the ground.

On April 28, about 60 bus passengers were killed and 23 injured in Bhai Pheru, 30 kilometres from Lahore.

Nine people were killed and 52 injured when a bomb went off at Sheikupura in front of District Headquarters Hospital, 36 kilometres from Lahore.

"Some tapped phones have revealed that PML-N [Nawaz] leader Nawaz Sharif and some other politicians were on the hit-list of terrorists," disclosed Chief Minister Sardar Arif Nakai in the Puluab Assembly's recent session.

The Federal Investigation Division (FID) has interrogated five persons suspected of hatching a conspiracy to assassinate Nawaz Sharif and Punjab senior minister Mushtaq Awan. The FID is looking for another conspirator, Omaish, a Hindu foreign exchange dealer of Lahore, the sources said.

Pakistan: Minister Blames Indian Intelligence for Punjab Blasts

BK1305144796 Islamabad THE NATION in English 12 May 96 p 14

[Report by THE NATION correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ABBOTTABAD - Interior Minister Maj. Gen. [Major General] (Retd) Nasirullah Khan Babar said the influx of RAW [Research and Analysis Wing (Intelligence Agency)] agents from Karachi to Punjab is the root cause of increasing terrorist activities in Punjab and pledged to eradicate terrorism with iron hand. He said there is no doubt about the involvement of Indian intelligence agency RAW and some other foreign agencies behind the bomb blasts in various parts of Punjab and added that the government has enough proof of their involvement. He said that the government is fully aware of its responsibility to protect life and property of the people.

While talking to journalists at the residence of Attorney General of Pakistan Qazi Mohammad Jamil here on Saturday afternoon, the minister claimed that the government has successfully curbed terrorism in Karachi and hundreds of foreign aided terrorists were either killed or arrested. However, he admitted that certain terrorists have entered Punjab and started terrorist activities. He regretted that some anti-state elements were working with RAW for the sake of money, but he said that they would not be allowed to continue their dirty role in Pakistan.

He dispelled the impression given by Indian media that Pakistani intelligence agency ISI [Inter Service Intelligence] was involved in terrorist activities in certain parts of India and added that Pakistan did not believe in interfering in the affairs or neighboring countries.

To a question the Minister asked the opposition to wait till 1998 as he said that the question of mid-term polls even did not arise and the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government would complete its five-year tenure. He warned that if PPP government was not given to complete its period, no other government in future would complete its tenure. He termed the statement of opposition leaders regarding mid term polls in 1996 or 1997 as disinformation. He asked the opposition to cooperate with the government to curb terrorism from the country.

Pakistan: Daily Reports Results of MQM-Sponsored Strike

BK1405061596 Islamabad THE NATION in English 13 May 96 pp 1, 11

[Report by THE NATION correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KARACHI—Strike was observed on Sunday on the call given by MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] (Altaf) to protest against the extra-judicial killings of 5 MQM men on Wednesday night.

All the markets and financial institutions remained closed though the staff came to their respective offices. Transport with the exception of District Central plied on the roads but the traffic was thin. Most of the people did not come out of their houses. The government offices also presented a deserted look.

The MQM(H) [Haqiqi] led by Afaq Ahmed made it a point that all markets and shops remain open in their areas. At many places like Landhi, Korangi, Malir, Shah Faisal Colony, the shopkeepers were asked to do their businesses in normal manner. Many people talking to this correspondent said that we feel quite safe and comfortable living in Haqiqi areas.

The most significant aspect of Sunday's strike was that the country's largest bourse "Karachi Stock Exchange" was open and trading was done though on low scale. The cotton exchange also opened and booking was done.

All the examinations were conducted in usual manner and the authorities informed that about 90 per cent of the candidates appeared according to normal schedule.

The local leaders said that MQM should reconsider its strategy for giving the strike call. Now, the people

are resenting and demanding that such calls should be avoided.

Meanwhile, strike call given by MQM to protest against the alleged extra-judicial killings of its five activists in Karachi, brought the life to grinding halt in Hyderabad and Latifabad on Sunday.

All the main markets, shopping centres, mandis, business establishments, petrol pumps and cinema houses situated in Pacca Qilla, Shahi Bazar, Resham Gali, Li-aquat Colony, Phulleli, Paretabad, Gari Khata, Station Road, and different units of Latifabad remained closed.

Traffic was very thin. Strike also interrupted the Hyderabad-Karachi bus operation and very few buses plied between these two stations on Sunday. On the other hand, transport for interior Sindh was easily available. Like previous strike, attendance in government offices remained very thin. Vigilance teams paid surprise visits to various municipal hospitals and offices of Sui Southern Gas Company to check the attendance.

Nawabshah: MQM strike failed in Nawabshah. Traders did not close their shops, but no customers were seen at shops due to a hot day. Heat wave, however, killed two children. However, some activists tried to burn a hotel at Manuabad area. No person was either killed or injured in the terrorism related incidents, however, at least four vehicles were set on fire in the city on Sunday.

According to police sources, two Suzuki high-roofs No. EX-0889 and EX-0391 were completely burnt, while two buses were partially burnt by some unknown miscreants at Khidmat-e-Khalq office in District Central in the jurisdiction of Joharabad Police Station.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka: Tamil Rebels Accuse Troops of Arresting, Torturing Boys

BK1105163296 (Internet) Tamil Eelam News WWW in Tamil 7 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement released by the headquarters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] says 15 soldiers were killed and 10 others injured in a surprise attack launched by the LTTE commando unit in Batticaloa District yesterday. The military patrol from Karadi Kulam camp heading to Punanai at 1030 yesterday was the target of the surprise attack which lasted only 10 minutes. It is reported that two of those killed are officers and that the 10 injured are in serious condition. The Powel [name as transliterated] armored personnel carrier used by the military patrol was destroyed and weapons were recovered. The LTTE cadres, who launched this quick

and successful attack, returned to base without suffering any losses and with the captured arms.

Troops have been arresting a large number of boys in the areas they overrun. These boys are then immediately moved to Colombo. Their distressed parents are worried as they do not know the whereabouts and fate of their children, who are subjected to the worst kind of torture. According to reports from Colombo, these boys, who are brought to Trincomalee from Kankesanthurai in ships, are then sent to Colombo on trucks.

Sri Lankan troops have arrested four [figure as published] Tamil civilians and a couple in Thenmarachchi. Dayalan from Navatkuli, Ravi from Polikandi, and a bulldozer driver Senathi also from Polikandi, have been detained by troops occupying the Navatkuli area. Troops also arrested a housewife named Komalajothi, alias Kamala, and her husband. The man has been released though the woman is still being detained.

A mammoth rally was staged in Wanni yesterday against Chandrika Kumaratunga government's directive to halt food distribution to the refugees. It may be recalled that after the start of Operation Riviresa-Two, the Chandrika Kumaratunga government issued an urgent directive to hold back food distribution to refugees. A large number of people from Akkarayan High School took part in the rally that ended at Kilinochchi Secretariat. At the end, petitions were sent to the Sri Lankan Government, the International Committee of the Red Cross, UN High Commission for Refugees, Oxfam, and MBF [preceding three letters in English; ?Military Banking Facility]

A truck transporting civilians out of military-controlled areas in Themarachchi was fired upon by troops. The incident took place the day before yesterday. It is reported that all the people disembarked before the shooting and that only the driver remained. The driver is also reported to have escaped unhurt.

Elections to the Indian Central Government and state governments concluded today. The counting of votes will take place tomorrow and the results will start coming in from tomorrow evening.

The Tigers' aspirations: motherland of Tamil Eelam! Thanks.

Sri Lanka: Terrorists Attack Security Picket Party

BK1205130296 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The operational headquarters of the Defense Ministry says that a large group of

terrorists attacked the security forces picket party sent out from the 600th detachment in the Batticaloa District yesterday. Reinforcements were rushed to the area of confrontation. The news released by the operational headquarters said that troops, with the help of Air Force fighter planes, attacked the terrorists causing them to retreat after a gunfight, which lasted about 45 minutes. Troops suffered 40 [figure as heard] killed in action and one officer and 14 others were wounded in action. According to the sources, ground troops recovered nine bodies of terrorists. They also confirmed that over 50 terrorists were killed and at least 30 injured during the confrontation.

Meanwhile, the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists have stepped up attacks on public places in the Eastern Province. The operational headquarters says that a group of terrorists had opened fire at two policemen who were guarding the Bank of Ceylon's branch in Chenkaladi in the Batticaloa District last Friday [10 May]. One policeman was killed in the attack. In another incident, a group of terrorists fired at two Home Guards in the Trincomalee District in the early hours of yesterday. One Home Guard was killed in action. Meanwhile, terrorists have destroyed a transformer close to Tirukkivil in the Amparai District on Thursday [9 May] night by draining out the oil from the transformer.

Sri Lanka: LTTE Dispatch Reports Offensive in Batticaloa

BK1305132696 (Internet) Tamil Eelam News WWW in Tamil 11 May 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] There was a fierce confrontation between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] and Sri Lankan troops in between Batticaloa and Polonnaruwa today. The military contingent on patrol was caught by a surprise attack by the LTTE. An international news agency reports that 14 soldiers were

killed and more than 15 injured in the attack. The report also states that in addition to this, the LTTE have recently stepped up their attacks in the east styming the activities of Sri Lankan troops and killing two soldiers in two separate incidents yesterday.

The civilians who pass through the Tandikkulam checkpoint, face a number of difficulties everyday. The age limit of those who pass through this checkpoint is revised daily. Young patients and pregnant women have been detained by the troops and sent back. These people are facing great difficulties for want of proper medical facilities.

The government has suspended distribution of food to the displaced people since the Tamil month of Masi. Nongovernmental organization's pleas were ignored when they approached the officers concerned to discuss this.

Due to the incessant missile attacks carried out by Sri Lankan troops in Vadamarachchi, the civilians living in that area have sought asylum in temples for their safety. A civilian has told a correspondent that the people hurriedly cook their daily food and then quickly enter the temples.

The troops have now totally banned fishing in the maritime zone in Kathankudy. The troops had allowed fishing in that area during the daytime, but now they have totally revoked that permission.

A Tamil civilian who returned home after being imprisoned in Colombo for three years was re-arrested the next day by police. Seven Tamils were arrested and detained during a siege in Moratuwa last week. [passage omitted on political activities in India]

Thanks.

The Tigers's aspirations: motherland of Tamil Eelam.

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